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THE TIMES

No. 65,056 SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10 1994

Courts to crack down on offenders

Major goes to war on 'yob culture'

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

JOHN Major urged the courts yesterday to take tougher action against wrongdoers and promised a blitz on petty crime to break Britain's 'yob culture'.

"There is a place for punishment and a place for prison," he declared, demanding "unambiguous messages" from the courts that offenders will be punished and victims supported. He also warned against the excessive use of cautioning.

His speech launched an autumn campaign to restore the Conservative reputation as the party of law and order.

Trying to wrest back the initiative from Tony Blair and reduce Labour's 34 per cent poll lead, Mr Major pledged a detailed raft of measures including a three-year action plan against drugs, efforts to curb drunkenness on the streets and a tougher regime in prisons.

Using hardline language designed to attract the traditional Tory voter, he called for tougher sentences to deal with both petty and serious crime (a reflection of ministerial concern over some recent cases), held out the prospect of identity cards being introduced in Britain and called for a "huge national partnership against the criminal", combining the efforts of special constables, councils, magistrates, schools and the community.

Speaking to the rightwing Social Market Foundation, he promised a green paper soon on the tightening of community sentencing and disclosed that Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, would publish another strategy paper later in the year.

Opposition politicians immediately criticised the speech as offering no proper solutions to the problems created during 15 years of Conservative government.

Mr Major said the public wanted a crackdown on those who made the streets a frightening place. People were kept away from city centres through the fear that they might be jostled, jeered at, or made to feel insecure by rowdy or offensive behaviour. He called for a national "anti-yob culture", with parents and teachers instilling discipline and respect and more councils using their powers to stamp out excessive drinking in public.

"All of us can show by our attitude and example that we condemn and reject loutishness, vandalism and crime," he said.

Schoolboy robbers hailed as heroes

As John Major was declaring war on Britain's yobs, two schoolboys were sent to detention centres by Luton Crown Court for robbing a building society in their lunchbreak, with an imitation gun. The boys, who escaped with £1,000, had changed back into their uniforms and returned to school, where they were hailed as heroes.

that we resent the mindless graffiti artists who deface our public places. Too often we have excused crime, patronising people as if nothing better could be expected of them. Too often we have allowed youngsters to slip further into bad habits by condoning or repeatedly cautioning their offences, when early action could have set them on a better path."

But it was Mr Major's appeal to the courts to use the powers given to them by the Government that was most striking. He said that catching the criminal was of little value unless he received a sentence.

"that straightens him out and deters others".

He went on: "I make no apology for taking a harder line with the criminal. The criminal justice system has to give the right messages. They must be unambiguous messages - that wrongdoers will be punished and victims supported."

Mr Major said the justice system had tended to drift away from public opinion. A system that did not carry confidence lost consent.

"There is now little or no public support for the social orthodoxies of the 1960s, which still hold sway in social work training and in parts of criminology."

In a reference to recent well-publicised cases Mr Major said the public wanted tough penalties for persistent young offenders - "not visits to safari parks that are the holiday of a lifetime".

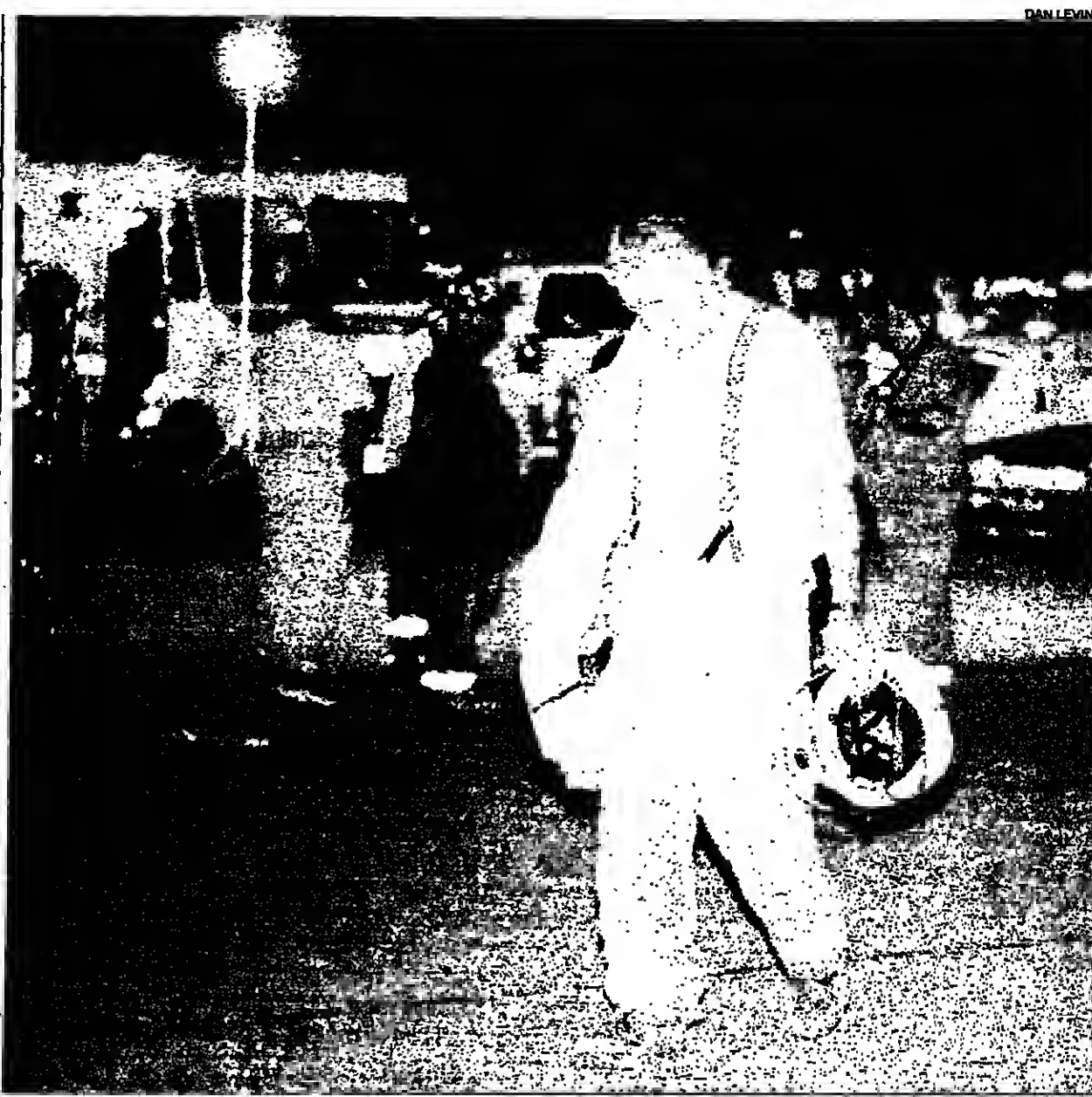
Alan Michael, Labour's home affairs spokesman, said the speech gave the illusion of action but offered little or no comfort to millions of crime victims.

Robert Macdonald, Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman, said it was an exercise in painting over cracks.

Mr Major also warned of the growing menace of drug-related crime and said Tony Newton, leader of the Commons, would unveil a three-year action plan and new drug strategy soon.

More money would go towards guidance on drug prevention in schools and inspectors would be asked to do more to stop abuse. He promised a "major blitz" on drugs in prisons. "I want people to come out of prison reformed, not sucked into a sub-culture of drugs," he said.

Leading article, page 17



The strain shows on a senior fireman as he trudges back to the airport command post after seeing yesterday's crash scene

Crash team studies four clues

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

INVESTIGATORS were last night concentrating on four possible causes of USAir's fifth fatal crash in as many years, as airlines waited anxiously for any hint of a structural problem with the world's workhorse aircraft.

The seven-year-old Boeing 737, on a routine scheduled flight in almost perfect visibility, went out of control and nosedived into a ravine at Aliquippa, in the Hopewell district of Pennsylvania, on its final approach to Pittsburgh international airport, and exploded in flames. All 132 people on board were killed.

Witnesses and the evidence of the crash site itself indicated that the twin jet had dived nose-first into a wooded area six miles from the airport. This is the kind of crash which baffles even the most experienced investigator.

Initial theories by officials from the National Transport Safety Board are that the aircraft had run out of fuel; it had been buffeted by the wake turbulence from a larger aircraft on its way to land; the pilot had suddenly become incapacitated; or the plane had been sabotaged.

□ Fuel: Investigators were puzzled by the absence of a lasting fire on impact and ordered urgent checks at Chicago airport to establish how much fuel the jet had taken on board before leaving for the 412-mile flight to Pittsburgh.

Had the aircraft run out of fuel the pilot would have lost power, and almost immediately hydraulic control of the moving surfaces. He may have been too busy trying to recover the aircraft to make a mayday call.

□ Turbulence: The aircraft may have been hit by "wake turbulence" from a bigger aircraft landing in front. Several unexplained crashes are known to have been caused by this phenomenon.

□ Incapacity: The pilot had made a routine call to the control tower to say he was about to turn towards the airport and was cleared to descend to 6,000 ft. Even a gentle three-degree descent could throw the pilot forward sharply should he, for example, have a heart attack, pushing forward the control column.

□ Sabotage: Investigators are certain that a bomb did not explode during the flight, but have not ruled out other forms of attack, such as a passenger grappling with or even shooting the crew.

Pittsburgh mourns, page 13

SCOTLAND IN THE TIMES

New life for the Gorbals



The Gorbals, once synonymous with razor gangs and drug abuse, is getting a £200 million facelift. The 40 acres are being redeveloped for the second time in 30 years after an attempt to replace its tenements with 1960s tower blocks created more social problems than it cured. Page 7

Giving voice to Scottish issues



Magnus Linklater, former editor of *The Scotsman*, joins *The Times* next week as a columnist and feature writer. His weekly column will have a political flavour, and he will write on Scotland in general.

Drug charge runner's hurt

Vicente Modahl, husband of the athlete Diane Modahl, yesterday said his wife had been heartened by support from within and outside athletics after positive drug tests, but added: "Diane hasn't coped very well. There have been times when she can't say a word for five, six or seven hours. People don't realise how much it has hurt her."

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US and Cuba reach accord on refugees

By Our Foreign Staff

THE United States and Cuba appear to have reached an agreement on ending the Cuban refugee crisis, an American official said last night.

Michael McCurry, the State Department spokesman, said after talks at the American mission to the United Nations that the United States was scheduling a formal press conference and added: "I doubt we would be having a press conference unless we had an agreement." He said that some details of the accord had yet to be completed, but did not elaborate. America "is satisfied that many of our

goals have been met", Mr McCurry said, adding that Michael Skol, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State who is leading the US delegation, would chair the news conference.

The negotiations have been held to halt a flood of more than 32,000 Cuban refugees who have tried to escape to the United States by boats and rafts so far this year. Mr Skol and the chief Cuban negotiator, Ricardo Alarcon, had met for five hours after a one-day recess to allow Señor Alarcon to return to Havana for consultations.

Kidnap father freed from jail

Peter Malkin, 54, of Bridge, Kent, who arranged the abduction of his son and took him to Egypt, was freed yesterday after spending eight months in jail after making an emotional appeal to Sir Stephen Brown, president of the High Court Family Division. He was jailed for 18 months for contempt of court. Page 3

Dorrell in court

Judgment was reserved to Tuesday when Stephen Dorrell, National Heritage Secretary, was accused in the High Court of unlawfully taking steps preventing the Getty Museum acquiring *The Three Graces*. Page 2

Unionist MP says ceasefire 'is real'

By Nicholas Watt, Ireland Correspondent

AN ULSTER Unionist MP shot by republican paramilitaries more than 20 years ago last night became the first mainstream politician from the Loyalist community to say that IRA violence could be over.

John Taylor, the MP for Strangford who was nearly killed by the Official IRA in 1972, said: "My gut reaction is that this ceasefire is for real."

Mr Taylor added: "I consider it to be my responsibility to encourage the peace process forward so that there will eventually be lasting peace for all the Roman Catholics and

Protestants of Ulster. I think that the IRA has been going through an internal debate. There is a stalemate position and they have recognised that they can no longer win."

Mr Taylor is thought to be one of the few Ulster Unionists who could envisage having to sit down with Sinn Féin, and he angered colleagues in 1989 when he said there should be talks with Dublin ministers.

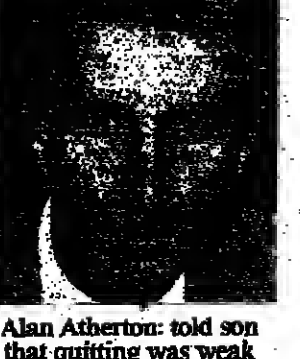
Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, disclosed yesterday that he planned to fly to the

Continued on page 2, col 4

Letters, page 17

Atherton says father kept him from quitting

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent



Alan Atherton: told son that quitting was weak

MICHAEL Atherton said yesterday that his father, headmaster of a Bolton comprehensive school, talked him out of resigning as captain of the England cricket team. Atherton said he had told close friends that he would resign when his integrity was questioned as a result of the ball-tampering inquiry at Lord's in July.

In his first interview about the troubles he called "the most emotional experience of my life", Atherton told *The Times* how daily telephone calls to his family home in Lancashire finally persuaded him to continue in the job. He

spent several bizarre days avoiding reporters who camped outside his house in Didsbury, Greater Manchester, and trailed him to the Lake District.

His father, Alan, is a former league cricketer who also spent three years as a Manchester United footballer. Atherton said: "Dad was very calm and calculating in his advice. He said that resignation was the weak way out. He also told me not to back down because that would be all I was ever remembered for."

Contrasting advice had been given by Geoff Boycott, who told Atherton in a telephone call that he should resign for his own good. "He said that if I stayed on I would risk it affecting my batting and

my captaincy for the rest of my career," Atherton said. "I was very close to following his advice."

The cricketer tells of his gratitude to Ray Illingworth, chairman of the selectors, whose prompt action in finding him pre-empted the possibility of a suspension being imposed by Peter Burge, the match referee.

Atherton, who received 500 letters of support, is now intent on his future as captain. "I don't want to be for ever looking over my shoulder, clinging on to the job. But the more I do it, the more determined I am to make a success of it."

Atherton interview, page 38

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Union says teachers deserve 'catching up' increase similar to MPs'

NUT seeks 22% pay rise over two years



McAvoy said more teachers were needed

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

BRITAIN'S biggest teaching union issued a challenge to the Government's public sector pay policy yesterday with a claim for rises of up to 22 per cent over two years.

The National Union of Teachers also demanded a reduction in its members' workload, and threatened industrial action if there was no response from the Government. Ministers' proposals for performance-related pay were dismissed as "completely inappropriate".

In a submission to the review body on teachers' pay and conditions, the NUT put no percentage on its claim for the coming year. But the union argued that teachers' normal starting salary should rise from almost £13,000 to £14,750 by 1996. An

extension of the present scales for classroom teachers would take maximum pay to £27,000.

Doug McAvoy, the general secretary, said teachers should be given the same access as MPs to a "catching up" rise. He expected the increase due next April to be outside the Government's limit.

Mr McAvoy accused ministers of complacency over the availability of teachers. The profession was failing to recruit and retain younger teachers, and 19,000 more would be needed by 1998 if class sizes were not to rise further.

Citing a sharp increase in the number of teachers retiring early due to ill-health, the union demanded changes to conditions of service to ease the workload in schools. The submission called for mandatory limits on class size, restrictions on

working hours and an entitlement to time away from the classroom.

Mr McAvoy said: "More than anything else, teachers' morale is declining because of workload. If the review body recommended half a per cent one way or the other, teachers would not be up in arms as long as they knew that issue was going to be addressed."

"If there is no national commitment, then we will consult our members on achieving a reduction ourselves."

Teachers received a 2.9 per cent increase this year. Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, is expected to announce the Government's proposals for the coming pay round next week.

Other teaching unions are also opposing performance-related pay and demanding increases in excess of

the Government's public sector limits. The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers has called for a 35-hour week and a pay increase in line with other non-manual staff. The Secondary Heads Association has urged the review body to recommend a pay increase for all teachers "in recognition of their improved productivity, measured by published examination results".

Head teachers will be under a legal obligation to ensure that next year's national curriculum tests go ahead, as a result of regulations published this week. The National Association of Head Teachers accused the Government of acting covertly since the regulations had been in force for more than a month, and had never been the subject of consultation.

Blair faces clash with conference over strike

By PHILIP BASSETT AND PHILIP WEBSTER

RAIL union leaders may provoke a clash with Tony Blair by pressing the forthcoming Labour conference to give unequivocal backing to the striking signalworkers.

Mr Blair's leadership team is prepared for an emergency motion to be tabled for the Blackpool gathering, the first Labour conference since he became party leader.

Mr Blair has said that he has sympathy with the signalworkers' cause, and any motion in those terms would be acceptable to the leadership. But he would oppose any

motion calling for outright backing for the strikes.

Backstage efforts will be made to couch a motion in terms acceptable to the leadership. But if that failed and he was defeated, it would be made plain that Mr Blair did not feel bound by the decision.

Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of the RMT, said that if the dispute was still on at the time of next month's Labour conference, the union would "certainly" be seeking support for the strikers from Labour.

However, he attempted to minimise any problem for Mr Blair. "It will not be a problem for the conference," Mr Knapp said.

Lew Adams, leader of the train drivers' union Aslef, said: "We will be looking for support from Labour at the party conference."

Rail union leaders expect party officials to be in close talks with the unions over the coming weeks to seek an agreed form of words. One Labour leadership source said that if the call to the conference was restricted to criticism of the Government and Rail-track, and required ministers to keep out of the dispute, there would be no argument. "But if it's a call for support, that's trouble."

A union member of Labour's national executive said: "It's inconceivable that the Labour conference would not carry a motion of support for the signalworkers".

Brown claims benefits are under threat

CHILD benefit, unemployment benefit and sick pay are at risk in the Government's latest review of public spending, Labour claimed yesterday (Philip Webster writes). Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, produced what he said were leaked Treasury documents revealing the existence of six committees that had already produced reports, with a seventh review to come. He declared that the new spending round, being conducted by Jonathan Aitken, the Treasury Chief Secretary, "must not become an autumn raid on the welfare state".



Andy Birt, paralysed in a rugby game, with Staff Nurse Firas Sarhan at Stoke Mandeville Hospital yesterday

Rugby stars honour paralysed boy

RUGBY Union stars will gather at Stoke School tomorrow to honour an 18-year-old pupil who was paralysed in a sports accident (John Goodbody writes).

Andy Birt will leave Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Buckinghamshire, for the day to see the school stage a benefit match to raise funds for his future. Phil de Glanville, Jeff Probyn, Martin Bayfield and Peter Winterbottom are among the England internationals who will play an exhibition game against the headmaster's team. Andy, who played at wing

forward in the Buckingham school's first XV, hit his head on the ground when tackled in a seven-a-side tournament in December. He said yesterday: "I cannot wait for Sunday. It is a tremendous gesture by everyone. For me nothing has changed about Rugby Union. It is a great game. The accident could have happened to anyone."

Other events tomorrow will include a local derby under-10s rugby match, tug-of-war exhibition and Army freefall parachute display. Andy, who lives in St

Albans, was paralysed from the neck down but has recovered movement in his arms and hands and uses a powered wheelchair. He is due to return to Stoke on September 30 to take an A level in computer-aided design and an Open University foundation course.

He will live with two able-bodied boys in a temporary building constructed for his use. Lionel Weston, Andy's housemaster and a former England cap, said: "He has coped very well with an amazing change in his lifestyle."

Three Graces delay was 'unlawful'

Stephen Dorrell, the National Heritage Secretary, was accused in the High Court yesterday of "unlawfully" taking steps which prevented the Getty Museum in California from acquiring *The Three Graces*. Hilary Heilbron QC, for the J Paul Getty Trust, told the court that Mr Dorrell had acted "most unfairly" in August when he extended the deferral of an export licence. Ms Heilbron was seeking judicial review after reports that Baron Hans Heinrich Thyssen Bornemisza, the Swiss industrialist, has donated £800,000 to the Victoria and Albert Museum campaign fund, completing the £7.6 million the fund needed to match the American bid.

Counsel for Mr Dorrell and the National Heritage Memorial Fund said there had been no promise to the Getty Trust that a six-month deferral ordered in February would be final. Mr Justice Laws said he would give his ruling at Leeds Crown Court on Tuesday.

Inmates' move 'wrong'

The transfer of four republican terrorists, including Patrick Magee, the Brighton bomber, from English jails to Northern Ireland only hours after the IRA ceasefire began was "completely wrong", the Home Secretary said yesterday. Michael Howard, speaking on BBC Radio 4's *The World At One*, confirmed that the transfer decision was taken in June, but said ministers should have been consulted about the timing of the move. "Very regretably, on this occasion they weren't," he said.

Hillsborough TV outcry

Relatives of victims of the Hillsborough disaster are looking at steps to try to ban the TV crime series *Cracker*, starring Robbie Coltrane, which is to use a storyline based on the tragedy. Jimmy McGovern, the writer, who is from Liverpool, said the story was partly a response to negative press coverage of the event. But a spokesman for the Hillsborough Family Support Group said: "We are absolutely shocked. We haven't seen the programme but from the way it comes across it is horrible news."

Nurse still excluded

A Northern Ireland man prevented under anti-terrorism laws from moving to the United Kingdom mainland must wait to see if his legal challenge has been successful. Kevin McQuillan, 34, an auxiliary nurse in a Belfast hospital, has been the subject of a series of exclusion orders made by the Home Secretary since 1987. Lawyers for Mr McQuillan argued in the High Court that the latest exclusion order breached European laws. But Mr Justice Sedley said a decision must await the outcome of other test cases.

Crocodile fossil found

A fossil of a crocodile which lived almost 200 million years ago has been discovered at Whitby, North Yorkshire, proving that the North Sea was once as warm as the Mediterranean. In the Jurassic period when the 10ft-long reptile lived, Whitby would have been roughly where Madrid stands today. The discovery has thrilled experts both for its unusual size and state of preservation. The crocodile will eventually go on display in the marine reptile gallery at the Yorkshire Museum in York.

Boy's crash bill settled

A boy aged ten who was run over and is being sued by a driver for damaging her car is to have the £167 cost paid by a well-wisher. Peter Biggs, whose leg was broken in two places, stepped out in front of the car driven by Sarah Dowson, 21, near his home in Colchester, Essex. He still has difficulty walking. Miss Dowson, 21, began court proceedings after Peter's family said they could not afford to pay for the damage. Roy Terry, 34, who runs a fireplace company in Essex, has said he will pay the bill.

Charity donations

Only one in four British people gives regularly to charity, donating an average of £129 a year, a survey has revealed. The figures, collated by MORI and the Institute of Charity Fundraising Managers, show a sharp geographical and class divide. In the North, the average donation is £101 compared with £160 in the South. The highest earners give £185 a year, the lowest £47. The survey was commissioned by nine charities.

Arrest in runaway case

Police have arrested a man over the disappearance of a girl aged 12 who ran away from home with New Age travellers. The 24-year-old man was held in Preston, where Kerry Martin was found on Wednesday.

Harry Phibbs

The Diary (June 7) reported a "contretemps" between Harry Phibbs and Terry O'Neill at the Argyll restaurant, Chelsea. The item may have suggested that Mr Phibbs had taken photographs of Mr O'Neill and his guest, Raquel Welch, without permission. Mr Phibbs did not, in fact, take any photographs of Mr O'Neill or Miss Welch, and we are happy to set the record straight.

Letters, page 17

Ulster Unionist MP says IRA ceasefire 'is real'

Continued from page 1
United States later this month to brief republican supporters on the IRA ceasefire. Mr Adams, who has recently submitted a visa application, said he was confident the US State Department would not attach any conditions to his visa.

His trip is likely to coincide with a visit to Washington by John Hume, the SDLP leader. A spokesman for the party said that members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee were keen to hear from the two men.

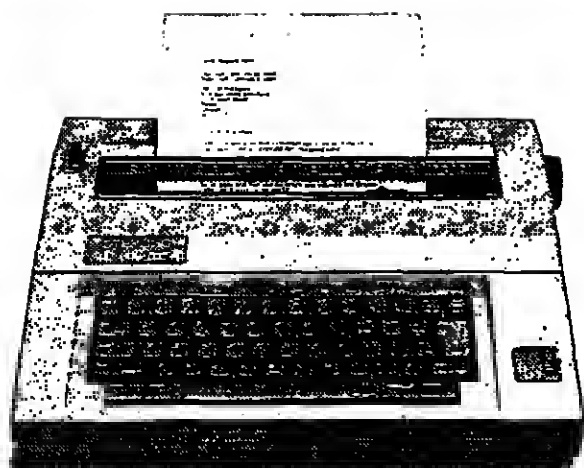
During his American tour, which might include trips to Washington, New York, Boston and San Francisco, Mr Adams will reassure republican hardliners that Sinn Féin has not abandoned its aim of removing Britain from Northern Ireland. He will be guaranteed sympathetic coverage on the main television networks, which will boost Sinn Féin's attempts to portray him as a mainstream politician. Pictures of Mr Adams speaking freely on American networks will also put pressure

on the Government to lift its broadcasting ban. Rita O'Hare, Sinn Féin's director of publicity, said yesterday that Washington had played a central role in the peace process. "The weight of international opinion has played a very positive role. That is why the British Government tried to stop him from entering the international forum."

News of Mr Adams's tour came as Archbishop Robin Eames, the Primate of All Ireland, delivered a warning that the peace process could be jeopardised if Protestants feel it is confined to the nationalist community. He welcomed the truce, but said: "If the perception on the part of many Protestants that the current peace process is somehow confined to the nationalist or republican community is allowed to grow, it will place a dangerous imbalance on the possibilities of long-term peace."

The Archbishop added that it was a great deal to expect a community to come to terms

with the ceasefire in a matter of days. He welcomed, however, the statement by the Combined Loyalist Military Command, the umbrella group for the two main Loyalist paramilitary organisations, which listed a table of demands. Dr Eames urged the Government to answer their questions and reiterated his call for Loyalist paramilitaries to end their campaign.

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Father jailed for taking son is freed after eight months

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

A FATHER who abducted his son and took him to Egypt was freed yesterday after spending eight months in jail.

Peter Malkin, 54, was released from an 18-month sentence for contempt of court after making an emotional appeal to Sir Stephen Brown, president of the High Court Family Division.

Outside the court Mr Malkin protested that there was one law for men and another for women.

He had been jailed for arranging the kidnap last November of his son Oliver, now 13, from France, where Malkin's ex-wife Eliza lives with her husband Andrew Pridmore.

Oliver has been kidnapped at least three times by his father in the past four years. Once, he was found in an attic room of Malkin's country club in Bridge, Kent, after a 19-month absence.

Malkin has frequently complained about his rights of access to Oliver, but the Pridmores have strongly denied his complaints against them. Yesterday, Malkin resumed his criticism.

"I only took Oliver because I never had any access," Malkin said after his release. He alleged: "They broke the court order, taking him to



Oliver Malkin, now catching up on work

France, and that was legalised, so it seems as if a woman can break a court order and then get it ratified and the child be allowed to live in France against his father's wishes, but when a man breaks a court order he ends up in prison."

Malkin was put on the back by strangers — all male — as he gave an impromptu press conference in the Strand, central London. He was hugged by his girlfriend Kate Donnelly, 45, who has helped to run his country club.

Malkin was jailed for 18 months — six months short of the maximum penalty — in January by Sir Stephen. He

later gave undertakings to the court that he would not remove Oliver from his mother, would return his son at the end of his access periods, and would not apply for a passport for himself or Oliver.

Malkin said he had been treated with kindness at Canterbury jail. "All the prison officers felt that I shouldn't have been there in the first place."

He told Sir Stephen yesterday: "I deeply regret that I offended you last November by taking Oliver to Egypt." He was very happy to have been granted access to Oliver at his home in Bridge.

"I allowed my love of Oliver to cloud my judgment. I accept the punishment and now I do ask for your forgiveness and I promise I will never break the law again," Malkin said the episode had cost him £300,000. He had lost his private house and all his personal money. Ms Donnelly also asked the judge to forgive Malkin.

Sir Stephen freed Malkin but warned other parents: "The abduction of children across international boundaries is a very serious matter which appears to be increasing in the world today and gives rise to great difficulties and tragedy."

He said court orders were made in the interests of the welfare of the child. "The court must know that they will be obeyed."

Oliver's mother was in court but her counsel, Henry Setright, made no observations to the judge.

Susan Shackelford, counsel for the Official Solicitor, who represents the child's interests, said she hoped that Malkin recognised the harm his premeditated action had done to Oliver.

Oliver's mother, who was receiving treatment for cancer when he was abducted, was described yesterday by a friend, Lesley Gibson, as "apprehensive".

Oliver is at school in France, receiving extra tuition, after missing three years of lessons during the periods he had been abducted by his father.



Michael Thomas at his third wedding with Marjorie Kellert, left, and with Joy Frostrick, his fourth wife, who called in the police



Bigamist married to three wives at the same time is branded a cad by judge

By ANDREW PIERCE

A BIGAMIST who was married to three women at the same time was jailed for eight months yesterday. Michael Thomas, a 44-year-old farm labourer, was branded a cad by the judge at Reading Crown Court.

Thomas, described as a silver-tongued Romeo by one of his victims, told two wives that he was divorced or widowed before going through a church wedding and a civil ceremony. He fathered children with both bigamous wives.

Mr Assistant Recorder Humphrey Mallins, sentencing Thomas who admitted two counts of bigamy, said: "I must mark your wicked conduct with a custodial sentence. The public would expect nothing else. You have shown a complete disregard for the rights of the children you have fathered and an appalling lack of morality and decency. A civilised and

ordered society must not permit men to treat women in this way. This is an affront to the institution of marriage. To use an old fashioned and perhaps under-used phrase, you were a cad."

Thomas was exposed after his fourth wife discovered incomplete divorce papers relating to a marriage she had not known about. Thomas was first married in 1968, when he was 18, to Denise Cookson. They were divorced in 1973. He married Sandra Lawrence in December 1975 at a register office in Lowestoft, Suffolk.

He left, set up home with another woman in Hammersmith, and fathered a child. They never married. In 1984 he married Marjorie Kellert in Rochdale who bore him a daughter. On his marriage certificate he claimed to be a divorcee.

In May 1985 he left home. A decree absolute was granted in November 1988 to Miss Kellert 14 months after

Thomas had gone through a church wedding with Joy Frostrick in Caversham, Berkshire. The marriage certificate described him as a widower. They had two children.

He had claimed that his previous wife had died of cancer but Miss Frostrick discovered that Sandra Lawrence was living in Lowestoft in a house which Thomas once pointed out during a trip to East Anglia. Philip Lewry, for the defence, said at the time of the first bigamous marriage Thomas had heard a rumour that his first wife was dead.

"When he got to the second marriage he could not go to his solicitor and say 'I want two divorces'."

Thomas is now in a relationship with a disabled mother of two grown-up children. "She knows the position. He is most unlikely to offend again. My client is no Don Giovanni and no Don Juan," Mr Lewry said. Marjorie Kellert, 44, wife number

three, said: "He is a low-down trickster who should be locked up for life."

Miss Frostrick, 35, wife number four, said yesterday that when their relationship ended he beat her up and sold the furniture in pay for his passage to Spain, leaving debts of more than £100,000 after his central heating business collapsed.

She was plagued by telephone calls from people demanding repayment for Thomas's debts. When he returned to Britain she took him to the police. "He didn't ask for a second chance and he never even said sorry," she said.

"He was a Romeo with a silver tongue. He has destroyed the lives of three women and probably more. He craved family life, but once he had it, he couldn't cope. He was a Walter Mitty character. None of the other women were surprised when I told them that Michael was a bigamist."



Peter Malkin arriving yesterday at the High Court, where he promised to never again break the law

Widower calls for compulsory labelling of foods

Allergy woman died after biting nut

By BILL FROST

A MOTHER of two died from a severe allergic reaction just over an hour after biting into a cashew nut garnishing an Indian meal, an inquest was told yesterday.

Louise Swallow, 33, fell ill while entertaining friends at her home in Corbridge, Northumberland, last December. Having suffered allergic reactions in the past, she thought she had removed all the cashews from her plate.

However, one nut remained in a portion of rice. Mrs Swallow bit into the cashew before attempting to remove it from her mouth, the inquest at

Hexham heard yesterday. Her husband told how he drove her to hospital as soon as she realised it could be a serious attack. Mark Swallow, 35, said that on the night of her death his wife had ordered an onion bhaji and chicken tikka masala with rice from a local restaurant.

"It was one of two dishes which she had eaten on many occasions. It didn't have nuts and I didn't expect the rice to have nuts," he added.

But when his wife feared she might have eaten a nut she went upstairs to get a dose of adrenalin which had been

prescribed after two previous violent allergic reactions. However, Mrs Swallow did not inject herself because she thought it would be better if she was treated by hospital doctors, he said.

Within minutes of arriving at Hexham General Hospital there was "a sudden and marked" deterioration in her condition and shortly afterwards Mrs Swallow died.

Mr Swallow said that his wife was allergic to peanuts and cashew nuts, while hazelnuts and walnuts provoked just a mild reaction. She tasted most food before spitting out

anything she feared might disagree with her.

After the inquest jury returned a verdict of misadventure. Mr Swallow said: "The whole tragic business highlights the urgent need for mandatory labelling of all food which explicitly states whether or not products contain nuts in any form."

"The public and everyone involved in the food industry — retailers and restaurants — need to be educated in the problem and to be made aware of the dangers of even the smallest trace of nuts to some people."

Police test bomber jacket and baton on the streets

By KATE ALDERSON AND STEWART TENDLER

THE traditional British police helmet and tunic may be on the way out as forces respond to the threat of violence in the inner city.

American-style uniforms, with peaked cap and holster for side-handled batons, are to replace silver-buttoned tunics and helmets in the Greater Manchester force.

Greater Manchester Police are to try out the unisex bomber jacket, peaked cap and trousers over the next six months and hope to extend the new style to 5,200 officers across the force.

Scottish forces gave up the traditional helmet, based on Victorian military designs, some years ago.

Manchester's introduction of the new uniform follows a three-month trial in Salford of side-handled batons which resulted in a halving of assaults on officers. The new uniform provides more space to carry the batons.

Absentee through sickness or injury was also reduced by 50 per cent and yesterday the Greater Manchester Police Authority approved issuing all officers up to inspector rank with the expandable batons and the new uniform. Assistant Chief



PC Diane Ashcroft in the new uniform

Constable Malcolm George said the new look did not mean that community policing had been abandoned. "We are still very much a part of the community and we will continue to police by consent. We are endeavouring to provide police officers with equipment and clothing that is more appropriate for modern-day situations."

Mr George said the trials might result in the end of the traditional tunic and helmet for routine duties. However, officers would wear the tradi-

tional uniform when giving evidence in court and for civic and ceremonial events.

He said that the side-handled baton was a defensive piece of equipment. "The trials for the side-handled baton between March and May were successful. Although the baton significantly alters the traditional image of the British police officer, it is more appropriate to the modern-day situation."

Diane Ashcroft, 30, an officer with six years' service, said the new uniform was more comfortable than the old jacket, skirt and bowler hat. "Its dynamic style lends itself to policing and it allows you to run after suspects more easily. It will make me feel a lot more confident on the streets."

The vice-chairman of the Police Federation, Ian Westwood, said: "We believe the present uniform needs to be looked at to see whether it is practical for the job in this day and age. Police officers carry a lot of equipment. The traditional uniform is all right for ceremonial occasions. But you would not expect the Grenadier Guards to go into battle wearing red tunics and bearskins."

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Families of 'friendly fire' victims renew compensation call

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE families of nine soldiers killed by American "friendly fire" in the Gulf war renewed their campaign for compensation yesterday after it was announced in Washington that one of the pilots involved in another incident over northern Iraq has been charged with negligent homicide.

Lieutenant-Colonel Randy May of the 53rd Fighter Squadron, based in Spandahl, Germany, was the senior pilot of two F15s that shot down a US Blackhawk helicopter, killing 26 people including two British officers. He has also been charged with dereliction of duty.

Five members of an Awaacs early warning radar aircraft that oversaw the "friendly fire" attack also face dereliction of duty charges.

The charges, announced by the Pentagon, and the compensation awarded recently to the families of the two British servicemen, have caused outrage among the relatives of nine soldiers who died when American A10 aircraft in error attacked two Warrior armoured fighting vehicles. No compensation has been offered by the Americans in their case and the airmen involved have not been named or charged.

Yesterday the Ministry of Defence said the Gulf War case was closed, although it was up to the families if they



Major Shapland: killed while on UN mission

wished to pursue the matter in the American courts.

A ministry spokesman said the affair had been officially pursued "to exhaustion" with Washington to ensure that the facts of the incident were made public, although no request was made by the ministry for compensation.

Mark Stephens, a solicitor acting for the nine families of the Gulf War victims, said: "It shows the stark difference in the way the two cases have been handled."

He said the families of Major Harry Shapland, 28, and Lieutenant-Colonel Jonathan Swann, 51, who were killed on a United Nations humanitarian mission over

northern Iraq, were kept fully informed. They were told the truth about how the men died and they received £66,000 in compensation without even asking for it.

He said: "The families of the nine soldiers were lied to, there was a cover-up, they have received no compensation from the US government and the people responsible have never been brought to book."

Trevor Smith, 33, one of the ten soldiers injured in the Gulf War friendly fire attack in 1991, renewed appeals on behalf of the survivors for an explanation and compensation.

Mr Smith, of north London, works as a civil servant after being discharged from the Army in November 1991. He was a sergeant in charge of one of the vehicles. He received shrapnel wounds and burns and was awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal. "We do not want a witch-hunt, but we do want an immediate and full explanation as to what happened," he said.

Denis MacShane, Labour MP for Rotherham, who has campaigned on behalf of the soldiers' families, said: "This leaves the nine British friendly fire families in no-man's land."

He urged the Prime Minister "to demand equal treatment for the families of the nine British soldiers".



The drastically reduced Royal Gurkha Rifles rehearse for their first parade

Reduced ranks of Gurkhas march onward

By ALAN HAMILTON

TO THE strains of "Scotland the Brave" played at the speed of an express train, the proud remnants of the Brigade of Gurkhas will parade today for the first time in the colours of their much reduced single regiment, the Royal Gurkha Rifles.

The Government's Options for Change paper on defence cuts has been particularly cruel to the last surviving significant body of foreign troops in the British forces, imposing compulsory redundancy on two thirds of their number. Four regiments, some with their origins in the pre-Victorian era, have been merged into one, and even that will soon be reduced from three battalions to two as Britain pulls out of Hong Kong.

Twenty years ago there were 14,000 Gurkhas serving with the British Army; soon there will be only 2,500, their regiment absorbed into 5 Airborne Brigade as part of the Army's rapid-response, go-anywhere force. But in truth there will, in times of peace, be few places for them to go besides Brunel and their home base at Church Crookham, Hampshire.

Redundancy has fallen equally hard on the men and their British officers who have had the unenviable task of choosing those who must go. "No Gurkha would ever

volunteer to leave the Army," Major Gordon Corrigan, commanding the Gurkha training wing, said.

Lieutenant Devraj Gurung, with 18 years' service, is a survivor. "It has been very disappointing to these men who still had the ability to serve. They will find it very hard to find work when they return to Nepal."

In common with other serving officers and men facing unemployment, the Army has been trying to find work for the Gurkhas in the outside world, but a civilian security job will never compare with the immense kudos of serving the Queen, even if their army pay is only £4 a week (made up by allowances to normal levels while they are in Britain).

But the door is not entirely closed; the Army's recruiting office at Pokhara, Nepal, will still be looking for 150 volunteers each year.

Some traditions also survive, including bagpipes in the hands of Nepalese mountain-dwellers. When the Prince of Wales, their new Colonel-in-Chief, takes the salute today he will present the regiment with new bagpipe banners, and will hear them gallop through the Scottish pipe repertoire at the furious pace demanded by their 140 steps-a-minute march.

Deadly fish virus poses threat to salmon industry

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

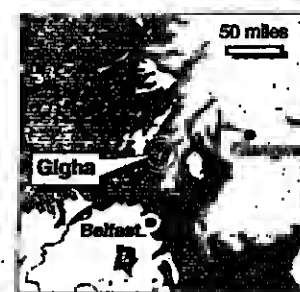
THIS first case of a deadly viral disease that could deal a costly blow to Scotland's salmon has been discovered in Britain.

The Scottish Office said yesterday that viral haemorrhagic septicaemia appeared to have been found in a farm on the island of Gigha, off Kintyre.

Final confirmation of the disease, which is not harmful to humans, is expected next week. Both the fish farming industry in Britain and the European Commission have been alerted. The disease has ravaged fish farming industries in other European countries.

Lynn Taylor, a Scottish Office spokeswoman, said the apparent outbreak was potentially very serious. "VHS is a disease for which there is no cure. All movements of fish from the affected site have already been prohibited."

Scientists are working



round the clock to analyse the affected fish and find the source of the disease. It is highly contagious and, should it be confirmed, a clearance and disinfection programme will be implemented.

Environmentalists fear the disease could spread to Scotland's salmon, rainbow trout and brown trout, grayling and pike fry, all of which are highly susceptible species. VHS is as likely to affect wild fish as farmed fish.

"Because of the seriousness of the disease we are not

giving any details of the farm on which it has been found. Once it has been confirmed and we know how widespread it is, the fish will have to be destroyed," Ms Taylor said.

The scientists are working on the theory that the disease could have come from one of three sources: the water, the food fed, or an imported fish. The disease will eventually kill all affected fish.

Ms Taylor said: "Britain is recognised by the European Community as an approved zone free from VHS. Because of this we can restrict the entry of imported fish to those from other disease-free zones."

"If this case of VHS in Scotland is confirmed, we will need to demonstrate to the Commission that we have contained the disease in one isolated area, excluded the affected area from the British approved zone and are carrying out a four-year testing programme."

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Lord Cholmondeley hopes to raise £15m towards tax and restoring the family seat

Marquess risks art world's wrath by selling treasures

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Marquess of Cholmondeley is preparing to dispose of a £25 million Rubens and other treasures from the family home at Houghton Hall in Norfolk to raise at least £15 million towards inheritance tax.

The 33-year-old marquess upset the art world two years ago by driving a hard bargain in selling the family Holbein to the National Gallery after the deaths of his father, the 6th marquess, and his grandmother.

Lord Cholmondeley, who is often called Britain's most eligible bachelor marquess, is selling off Old Master paintings, furniture and, literally, some of the family silver at Christie's in December.

Although he was criticised for selling treasures shortly after inheriting £118 million, Lord Hindlip, the chairman of Christie's Europe, explained that the Cholmondeley wealth was almost entirely tied up in land and works of art.

Christie's describes the sale as its most important in 20 years. Among the best of the works are a pair of £300,000 ornate swans made for Madame de Pompadour; a double-sided Rubens that includes a powerful lion hunt scene; and a painting by the 18th-century French master, Jean-François de Troy, which was



Lord Cholmondeley: restoring his home

once owned by Frederick the Great of Prussia.

Most of the works come from the collection of the marquess's great uncle, Sir Philip Sassoon, the noted collector who died in 1939. There is also a large collection of carved chairs once used by Sir Robert Walpole, Britain's first Prime Minister.

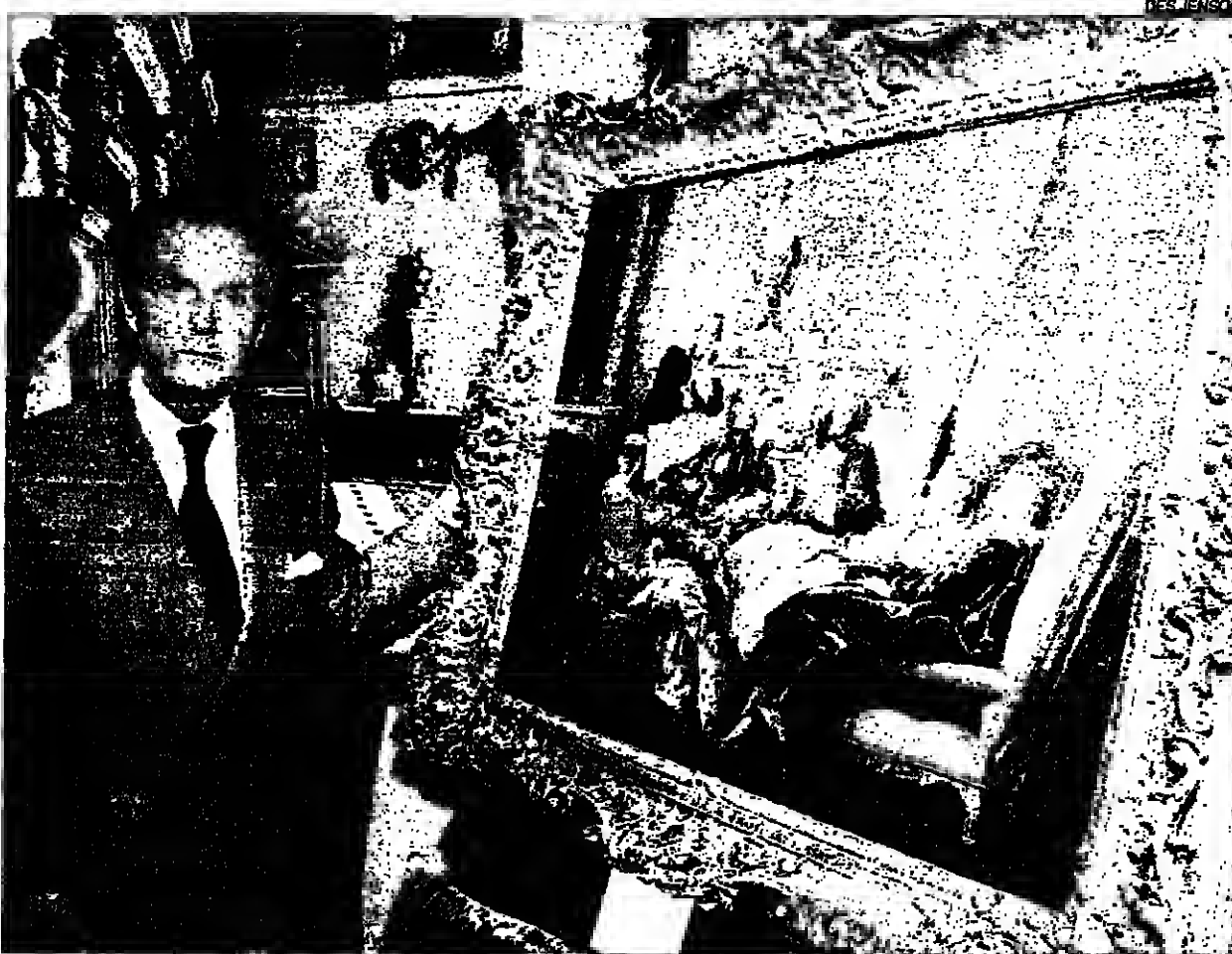
While the gossip columnists speculate about the marquess's relationship with the pop singer and model Lisa B, he is busy restoring the rooms at Houghton to their original look. The sale is partly to fund the project, but inheritance tax will take some 40 per cent of the total.

Lord Cholmondeley said: "We have resolved on a sale of works of art from Houghton which are no longer part of the decorative lay-out and which have been relegated to attic stores."

It was for Houghton's benefit that Lord Cholmondeley sold Holbein's *Lady with a Pet Squirrel and a Starling* for £10 million to the National Gallery, through a private treaty sale.

At the time, experts criticised both the seller and the gallery. Some said that the gallery had paid too much, that by taking tax, VAT and commission into account, the price was the saleroom equivalent of £29 million.

Lord Cholmondeley succeeded to the title and estate in 1990. Earlier this year, Christie's negotiated the sale on his behalf of a Gainsborough in lieu of taxation, for allocation to the National Gallery.



Christie's chairman Lord Hindlip with "La Lecture de Molière" by the 18th-century French master Jean-François de Troy, which was once owned by Frederick the Great of Prussia. It is estimated at up to £5 million

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Houghton Hall was built for Sir Robert Walpole

Fee for eye tests 'puts sight at risk'

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE Government yesterday rejected claims that more people are going blind because sight tests are no longer free.

Gerald Malone, the health minister, said figures which showed referrals for glaucoma, a preventable but potentially blinding eye disease, had fallen by up to a fifth in Bristol "did not reflect the national scene".

Researchers in Bristol say the fall in referrals suggests some patients, especially the old, will not pay the £13.50 fee. High street opticians are often the first to notice glaucoma.

Mr Malone said referrals to hospital eye clinics nationally fell by 1 per cent in 1989, the year the sight test fee was introduced, but have since increased. "They are back to levels they were at before the sight test fee was introduced," he told BBC Radio 4. "We are very keen to ensure that glaucoma is picked up as soon as possible."

The Bristol figures show that after a sharp fall in referrals to the city's eye hospital in 1989 from 6,500 to

5,500, they have since grown to reach 6,400 in 1992. A spokesman for the researchers said: "We have got back to where we were but not to where we would have been. We would expect more referrals because the population is ageing. We have very little truck with what Mr Malone is saying."

Glaucoma, a condition in which pressure builds up inside the eye damaging the optic nerve, affects 2 per cent of people over 40 and 7 per cent of those over 75. It cannot be cured but if caught early eye drops can slow its course.

David Wright, general manager of the International Glaucoma Association, the charity which funded the research, said the findings were disturbing. The Health Department said 5.5 million free eye tests were carried out in 1991-92 on patients exempt from the fee compared with 12.5 million in 1988-89, the last year when all tests were free. Children, people on income support and those with diabetes and glaucoma are eligible for free tests.

Racial bias claim was vexacious

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE chairman of an industrial tribunal has said that a man who complained of racial discrimination in several cases should be placed on a register so that tribunals would be aware of his "frivolous" claims.

Raj Rohatji, unemployed, lost his fourth claim for race discrimination in two years on Thursday. He had brought the case after failing to become a trainee accountant with KPMG Peat Marwick in Birmingham. In the past he had brought cases after seeking to become a civil servant in London, a policeman in Glasgow and a nuclear scientist, the tribunal was told. John Haslam, the tribu-

nal chairman, said that in bringing the case, Mr Rohatji "acted improperly, frivolously and vexatiously. He had no prospect of success."

Veronica Dean, for KPMG, told the hearing that he had been abusing the industrial tribunal system around the country. Mr Rohatji had told interviewers at KPMG that he had an honours degree in engineering, but that was not true. Mark Hopton, of the company, told the hearing. He only had an ordinary degree.

Mr Rohatji, who did not attend the hearing, said in a letter: "I was better qualified than most of the white people who went on to the second interview."

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Low-rise estate lifts the Gorbals above its blighted past

By Gillian Bowditch
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

GLASGOW'S Gorbals estate took a step towards shaking off its image of razor gangs and drug abuse yesterday with the opening of the first house in a £200 million project.

Number 150 Errol Gardens, a three-bedroom Wimpey home complete with overstuffed sofas and swags and drapes, was on display to the residents of the Gorbals as the first stage of the ambitious Crown Street regeneration project. The plan is to develop a 40-acre area and provide homes and shopping facilities for 1,000 families.

The project is backed by Glasgow City Council, Strathclyde Regional Council, Glasgow Development Agency and Scottish Homes. The development will be a mixture of rented and privately owned accommodation, and unlike previous attempts to redevelop the Gorbals, local people have been involved in designing the houses.

A spokesman for Wimpey Homes said the new houses would sell for about £50,000 and of the 92 under construction 48 had already been sold, most to Gorbals residents.

Early last century the Gorbals was a thriving middle-class suburb in the heart of the city but



Award-winning architects designed the Sixties tower blocks but these left families isolated

after the Highland clearances and the Irish potato famine its elegant tenements were taken over by disenfranchised and poor families. Generations ate, slept, gave birth and died in one room.

In the 1960s the tenements were pulled down to make way for tower blocks and wide streets, under the direction of award-winning architects such as Sir Basil Spence. However, the result

left families isolated. The problems of poor design, lack of maintenance, vandalism and broken lifts were exemplified in the notorious Hutchesontown "E" block, known as "the Dampies". Within a year of its construction, condensation had made the flats virtually uninhabitable. Within 14 years, all the residents had been moved out.

Yesterday the new-look Gorbals

was given local residents' approval. Annie McGregor, who has lived in the Gorbals for 60 years, said: "I think it's very nice. If I were 30 years younger I'd like to live here. There is still a great community spirit in the Gorbals. Most of the people I know want to live here and wouldn't consider living anywhere else."

Anne Graham, who has lived in the Gorbals all her life, said: "We

would like to have seen more rented accommodation but I'm not too worried about yuppies. Most of the houses will be bought by local people. People who live in the Gorbals like it here."

Mike Galloway, spokesman for the Crown Development regeneration project, said the first residents would be moving in in November. "There will be Christmas trees in the windows," he said.

There are more than 200 houses being built in the first phase of the project and only local residents can buy them for the first 28 days after they go on sale. During this initial sale period there is a 10 per cent discount to encourage Gorbals residents to buy.

The first phase of the project will be finished by April 1996 with final completion by 2000. A competition to find the architect and developer for the second phase has just been launched, and local people will be involved in the judging.

Gavin Stamp, who lectures in architecture at Glasgow's Mackintosh School of Architecture, says there is no reason why the regeneration of the Gorbals should not be successful. "The great tragedy is that they demolished the tenements in the first place. But it is not unheard of for areas that were slums in one century to become the desirable areas in the next."

Leading article, page 17

Papal envoys seek an act of faith at Cairo summit

John Wilkins

The Vatican has been facing something of a public relations disaster this week. The Cairo summit conference on population and development, which was going round in circles trying to find some formulation that would allow its draft programme for action to say that where abortion is legal, it should be safe. To every suggestion the Holy See's delegation said No. Observers rubbed their eyes and wondered what was happening.

If the Holy See was not in Cairo to negotiate, why did it come? Or else why did it not announce at the beginning that it could never accept any declaration on abortion, and so would not sign the final document, but wished to join in the discussion of all the other weighty issues?

On the other hand, the Holy See's delegation might ask why the conference members were so insistent on abortion being mentioned if they were agreed that it was never acceptable as a method of family planning. What was the hidden agenda? The conflict at Cairo is not simply over sexual ethics. It is, over Western values, specifically the values of the European Enlightenment.

Pope John Paul II's doctrinal watchdog, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, was explicit in his criticism of the Enlightenment in commentaries he gave before the appearance last year of the papal letter *Veritatis Splendor*.

In that letter the Pope turned against a totalitarianism that he detected in the combination of democracy and relativism. That is the object of attack at Cairo also, and to press it home the Pope's envoys have formed



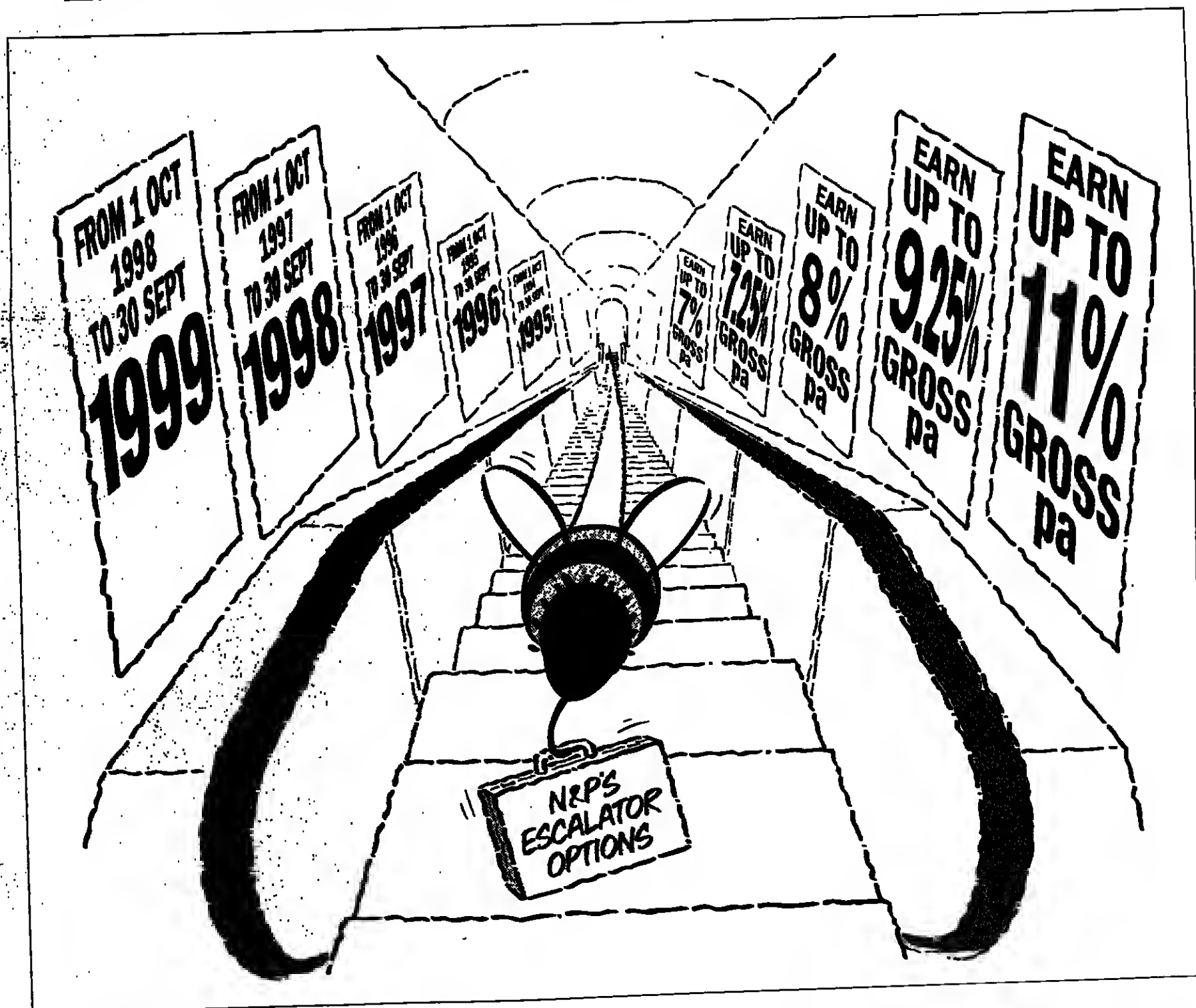
and they look to it to guarantee pluralism through unconditional respect for every human being, especially those who are poor and suffering.

They hope they will not have to make any apologies for it when the Cairo conference is done.

John Wilkins is editor of The Tablet

Accord nearer, page 12
At Your Service
Weekend, page 2

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British Association: how clever plants count up to two ... and clues to the fate of Boxgrove Man

Spare the kitchen knife — lettuces have feelings too

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

VEGETARIANS have no right to hector meat-eaters about cruelty because plants suffer too when they are killed, a plant physiologist said yesterday.

Professor Malcolm Wilkins of Glasgow University said that research showed plants were sophisticated, intelligent beings able to see, hear, talk and count up to two. They possessed the equivalent of eyes and shared an electrically based nervous system with the animal kingdom.

"If you cut a lettuce you are being awfully cruel. A lettuce is a sensitive organism," Professor Wilkins told the British Association.

“Students come to me and say they don’t like eating meat because they don’t like animals being killed. But they are perfectly happy slicing up a tomato or cucumber into little pieces.”

"There is blood all over the

place. It may be green, clean, snuff, but it is still blood."

He said that research with mimosas indicated a sophisticated nervous system. When a mimosa leaf was touched all the other leaves on the stem curled up. The reaction was not a simple chemical one but based on electrical pulses.

He said plants talked when they were deprived of water. The clicks, resembling those made by whales and triggered by water shortages in channels in the stem, could be detected by sophisticated microphones.

The phenomenon was being used in Californian vineyards. When the sound was detected, automatic irrigation systems were switched on until the thirsty plants were silent.

Professor Wilkins said that a gravity detector had been found in shoots which, when cut off, damaged the plant's ability to grow upwards.

Whereas human eyes were identical in what they did, plants had at least two different ones, processing blue and red light.

Evidence for counting skills came from studies of the carnivorous Venus flytrap. The plants had three hairs on each side of the leaves which closed to trap insects. If one hair was ruffled, Professor Wilkins said, the trap stayed open to avoid catching dust or other irrelevant objects. But if two hairs were touched, or one was touched twice in 30 seconds, the trap shut tight in less than a tenth of a second.

Other studies had shown the plants have memory, can tell the time and can predict the future. He cited the emergence now of sticky winter buds on horse chestnut trees, weeks in advance of frost and snow.

Nigel Hawkes, page 16



Britain's oldest marathon runner may have been eaten by a wolf

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR



BOXGROVE Man, the muscular ancestor of modern humans who lived in West Sussex half a million years ago, may have been killed by a wolf.

Archaeologists from University College London (UCL) and the Natural History Museum in central London say that tiny marks and grooves on a shin bone found at Boxgrove last December showed that it had been gnawed by a predator, probably a wolf.

Simon Parfitt of the Institute of Archaeology at UCL

said at the British Association Science Festival in Loughborough yesterday that the theory could explain why the two ends of the shin bone were missing. But it would be difficult to determine whether the predator actually killed Boxgrove Man or scavenged his body after death.

Boxgrove Man belonged to a species called *Homo Heidelbergensis*, which evolved into Neanderthal Man in Europe and into modern humans in Africa. The single bone found at Boxgrove

near Chichester, is the best-dated remnant of the species found in Europe, and one of the earliest.

Detailed examination of the bone using an X-ray scanner at University College Hospital has shown that it is flatter from front to back than a modern human's, suggesting that it was subject to powerful muscular forces. This means, Mr Parfitt said, that Boxgrove Man must have been an active runner. "He belonged to a very mobile community whose home range covered a large region," he said.

The microstructure of the bone also suggests that Boxgrove Man was about 20 when he died, middle-aged by the standards of his time.

Small fragments of the bone are to be tested by Dr Andrew Sillen in Cape Town, South Africa, to discover if

Boxgrove Man ate fish as well as meat. "We think he might have walked along the shore snacking on shellfish," Mr Parfitt said.

Dr Sillen will look for isotopes of strontium in the bones. Seawater contains strontium, which finds its way into fish and shellfish, and from there into the bones of those who eat them.

It is known that Boxgrove Man ate horse, rhino, cave bear, and giant and red deer from marks made by his flint butchering tools on bones. "He could have eaten roe deer, wolves, hyenas, lions, mink, stoats, rabbits and hares, but he didn't," Mr Parfitt said. "Maybe they were too hard to catch."

Excavations at Boxgrove, recognised as one of the finest sites for the study of early man, begin again next spring.



Bionic hand has gentle touch

Scientists at Plymouth University have developed a robot hand that can pick up crystal glass without shattering it. Their work should lead to a more sophisticated electronic hand for the physically disabled within two years.

Current "bionic" hands have significant drawbacks: wearers have little control and can crush delicate objects in seconds. The new battery-powered hand at present looks like a machine consisting of two blocks of aluminium "fingers". But researchers say a lifelike device with artificial skin should be on the market by 1996. Elaborate pressure centres will detect the right force needed to hold objects.

Mud hut is home of the future

Researchers seeking to develop the most energy-efficient home may have found the answer in medieval mud cottages in Devon and Cornwall

Professor Max Fordham, an environmental engineer, told the British Association that cob cottages had roofs more than 3ft thick, and that the energy-efficient home of the future would have walls and floor of similar thickness. He also recommended recessed windows with triple-glazing and computer-controlled shutters.

Identity parades 'impair justice'

THE reliance by the police and the courts on identity parades, and evidence from eye-witnesses is sending innocent people to jail, a psychologist said yesterday.

Professor Graham Davies of the University of Leicester said studies by his team showed that these methods were scientifically and psychologically flawed.

He said: "Consideration must be given to adopting the Scottish position which insists on independent corroboration of all identification claims."

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Armed boys robbed building society in school lunch hour

By Andrew Pierce

THREE schoolboys robbed a building society at gunpoint after catching a bus into town during their lunch break, a Crown Court heard yesterday. The boys — one aged 15 and the others 16 — escaped with more than £1,000 after threatening a woman cashier with an imitation gun. They then changed back into their uniforms and returned to the classroom.

A year later one of the gang, Nicholas Garrod, now a sixth form prefect, left Sandy Upper School, Bedfordshire, in a free period. He changed into his robber's outfit and held up another building society, escaping with £900.

He was arrested at school 24 hours later with the £900 in his pocket. When the judge at Luton Crown Court was told that the boys had been acclaimed as heroes by fellow pupils, after one of them bragged about the robbery, he launched a strong attack on the school. Judge Daniel

Rodwell QC, passing sentence on Garrod and Jonathan MacLellan, both aged 17, said: "It's an appalling state of affairs and a damning indictment of the school. No amount of modern teaching methods are of any value if a school is unable to instil a basic sense of right and wrong in pupils."

Justin Rouse, for the prosecution, said that Garrod and an unnamed youth went into Bedford "case" building societies and decided on the Alliance & Leicester.

MacLellan's role was to distract the woman cashier. Garrod produced the imitation gun, the third youth acted as lookout.

MacLellan appeared so nervous that the cashier he was supposed to be distracting told him: "Don't look. Don't worry." MacLellan waited for the police and gave his name and address, pretending to be an innocent customer.

The next day he was given £60 from the £1,000 haul by

Garrod. Garrod, who was university material, was sentenced to three years in a young offenders' institution after admitting two charges of robbery and two of possessing an imitation firearm.

MacLellan, who edited the school magazine, received six months in a young offenders' institution after admitting one charge of robbery. The identity of the third member of the gang, who is still to be questioned by the police, was not released.

The two boys sat in court a few feet from their parents. MacLellan's mother is a physiotherapist and his father, an engineer for a company in East Africa, flew back for the trial.

Max Hill, headmaster of the school, said the judge's comments were wrong. "Garrod did brag about the first robbery but the pupils laughed at his claims. He was never looked on as a hero. People didn't take it seriously."



The Rev Peter Miln outside one of his public houses yesterday. He says his twin role upholds an ancient tradition

Bishop bars 'vulgar vicar' from pulpit

A CLERGYMAN nicknamed the "vulgar vicar" because of his risqué jokes has been barred from taking services by his bishop (Ruth Gledhill writes).

The Rev Peter Miln, a publican as well as a Church of England priest in the Lichfield diocese, insisted the parting of ways was "amicable", and unconnected to his bar-tending.

The Bishop of Lichfield, the Right

Rev Keith Sutton, withdrew Dr Miln's permission to officiate because he was "no longer participating in the life of the Church of England" in the diocese.

Dr Miln, who was yesterday pulling pints and wearing his clerical collar as usual in one of his two tenanted pubs, the Old Talbot in the Market Place at Uttoxeter, Staffordshire, said he still intended to take services outside the

Anglican Church. He had drifted away from the Church of England because he opposes women priests, and dislikes the 1980 Alternative Service Book.

Dr Miln, 50, earned the name "vulgar vicar" from his prowess as an after-dinner speaker. He claimed that combining his role as a "worker priest" with the licensed trade was merely following a tradition from the Middle Ages.

BR official wins case for unfair dismissal

A BRITISH Rail manager who was accused of sexually harassing two colleagues won his case for unfair dismissal yesterday. An industrial tribunal said that managers were too quick to assume the allegations were true.

Warren Breeze, 31, a senior quality consultant in York, was dismissed last September after claims that he touched and made suggestive comments to Sue Lightburn and Mandy Long, 18, on overnight business trips.

Simon Myerson, counsel for Mr Breeze, said that the manager had been having "something close to an affair" with Mrs Lightburn. She concocted the sexual harassment story because she feared that if her husband found out about the relationship he would divorce her and gain custody of her children, Mr Myerson said.

He told the tribunal at Leeds that Mr Breeze had had an on-off relationship for 11 years with Sue Wood, the sexual harassment counsellor who talked to Miss Long about her claims, and that Miss Wood was jealous of Mrs Lightburn.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Zurich duel

The category 16 international tournament in Zurich is rapidly resolving itself into a duel between the world champion, Garry Kasparov and the veteran Viktor Korchnoi. After five rounds, they share the lead with 4 points. In round five Korchnoi defeated the French grandmaster Joel Lautier, while Kasparov downed Boris Gelfand, who has reached the semi-final of the Fide World Championship.

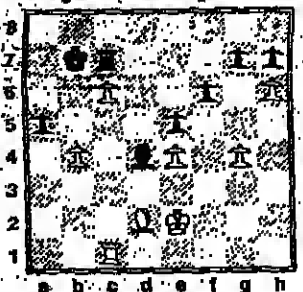
White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Boris Gelfand
Zurich, September 1994

Sicilian Defence

- 1 e4 c5
- 2 Nf3 d6
- 3 d4 cxd4
- 4 Nxd4 Nf6
- 5 Nc3 e6
- 6 Bg5 Nd7
- 7 Be2 exd5
- 8 Bxd5 Qb6
- 9 Nf5 Nxd5
- 10 Qxd5 Nf6
- 11 Qd3 Nf8
- 12 Bc4 Bb4+
- 13 Qxb4 Bf8
- 14 Qc3 Bg7
- 15 Bb3 Qd7
- 16 Rf1 Qd8
- 17 Bc2 Ne8
- 18 Bc3 Rd7
- 19 Bg5 Bc5
- 20 Kd2 Bb3
- 21 Kc3 Bc5
- 22 Bc1 Nf6

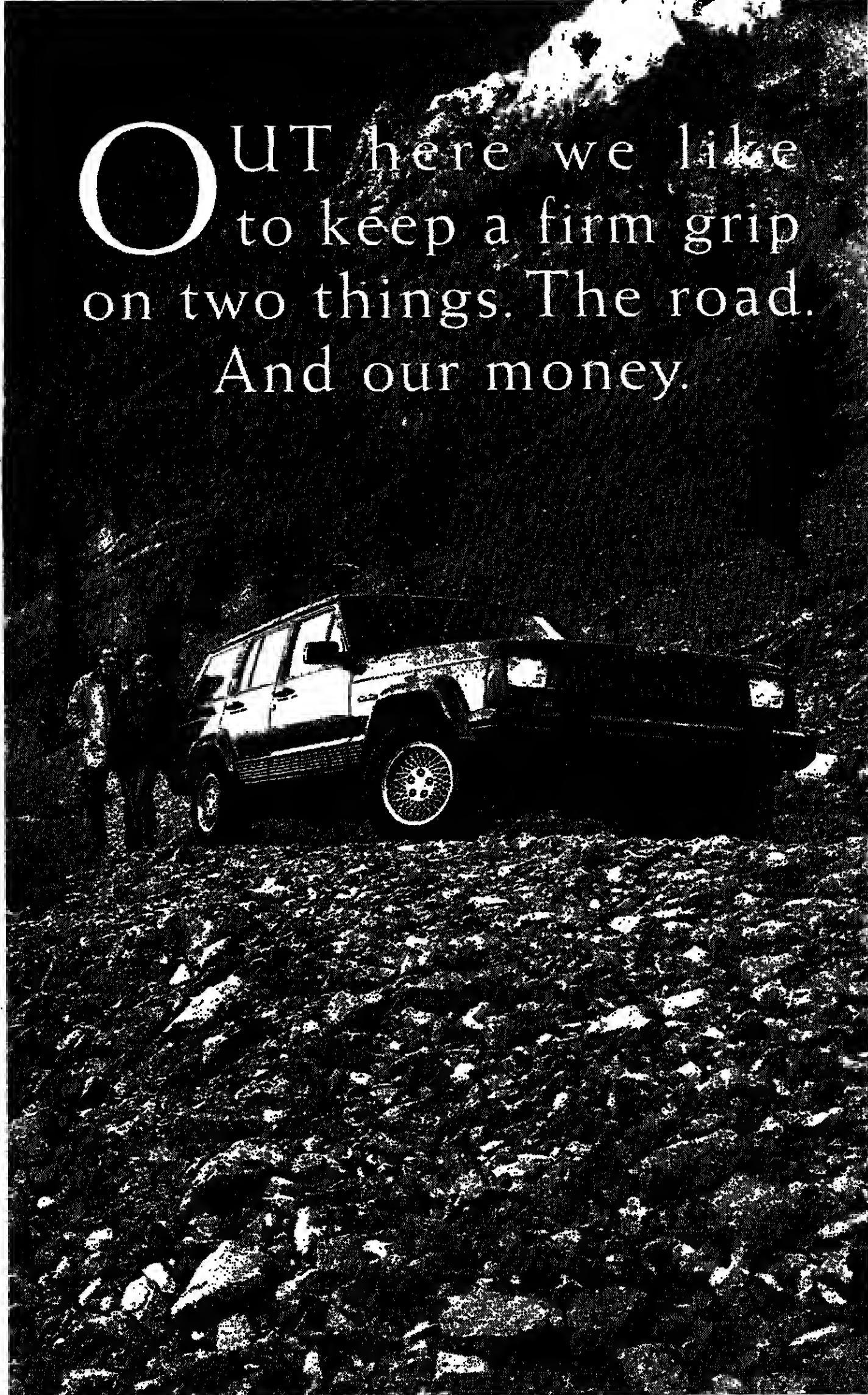
- 24 Nxd5+ Rxd8
- 25 b4 Bc7
- 26 b5 Rnd8
- 27 Re2 Kb8
- 28 Bxb6 bxb6
- 29 B3 Kd7
- 30 Re2 Kd8
- 31 Rxd6+ Rxd6
- 32 Qd4 Rf7
- 33 Bc2 Bb6
- 34 Ra1 Kd7
- 35 h4 Rb8
- 36 h5 Rd5
- 37 Be1 Bc7
- 38 Bb4 Bxb6
- 39 Ra2 Rf6
- 40 Ra1 Rd6
- 41 Bc2 Rd7
- 42 Rh1 Kd8
- 43 d4 Bd4
- 44 h6 Kd7
- 45 c5 e5
- 46 Rc1 Rf7
- 47 c6 Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Hodgson ahead
In the second section of the Zurich tournament, London grandmaster Julian Hodgson leads with 4 points out of 5.

Winning Move, Weekend, page 29



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Dairy trade goes to High Court in fight over milk monopoly

BY LIN JENKINS

THE battle for control of the doorstep pint of milk enters a new stage next week with a High Court action to halt government plans to reform the dairy market.

Under the changes, the Milk Marketing Board is to end its 60-year control of the sale of milk. It will be replaced by Milk Marque, an independent co-operative owned by farmers which will buy milk from farmers, but could be challenged by buyers offering a better price.

The change has been fiercely challenged by the big supermarkets, which have threatened to buy milk products from elsewhere in the European Union rather than pass on price increases of up to 30 per cent to the consumer.

The threat to shop abroad to keep down the prices of such foods as yoghurt, cheese, butter and ice cream came after William Waldegrave, the agriculture minister, rejected calls to refer the proposals to the



Shephard: said milk prices might fall

Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Two thirds of dairy farmers have already joined Milk Marque in advance of its launch on November 1. The prices it is getting from dairies have risen by an average of 10 per cent, with the return from some types of milk rising by more than 30 per cent. The board operated a scale of tariffs depending on whether the milk was to be used for the

doorstep pint or for turning into other dairy products.

The Dairy Trade Federation, which represents dairy companies, is to present its case on Monday to the High Court to seek leave for a judicial review of the Government's action. It claims that the law enabling Milk Marque to be set up required the agriculture minister, then Gillian Shephard, to take into account both consumers and dairy companies.

"Mrs Shephard had been found not to have done that. When she approved the scheme she said prices would not rise and they might fall, and this is not the case," John Price, director general of the Dairy Trade Federation, said. "What we have argued is that if they are going to move from a statutory controlled monopoly to Milk Marque, a private monopoly, they must put in force legislation to provide controls."

He cited Ofwat in the water industry and Ofgas in the gas industry as examples of where



Milkmen from Highgate Dairy in north London in 1924 set off to make their street deliveries in the days when pails preceded the bottled pint

this had been done. A full hearing is to be held in about a month.

The price of a pint of milk, 36p on the doorstep with typically 14p going to the milkman, 7.2p to the dairy, 2p to the board and 12.8p to the farmer, is likely to rise by 4 per cent. But the cost of cheeses,

butter, fromage frais and other products could rise by more than 20 per cent.

John Gildersleeve, Tesco's trading director, said: "The advent of Milk Marque as currently proposed will lead to significant price increases for the British consumer, and for the British producers. That

will inevitably lead to job losses in the processing industry. We will inevitably have to source milk from abroad if the prices are lower than the UK." He said it was ridiculous at a time when the Government was fighting inflation "that we are faced with price increases of up to 20 per cent as a result

of, effectively, a monopoly like Milk Marque".

A Sainsbury spokesman said: "The new system should not result in shoppers paying a higher price for milk."

Until the monopoly arrangement for selling milk was born in 1933, primarily to protect the producers, farm-

ers sold their milk locally. This worked well until demand fell, when the dairies offered lower prices, pitting one farmer against another.

Doorstep deliveries began in the mid-1880s, but really took off in the 1920s when railways brought supplies into towns.

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Bristol: hopes for lease agreement

Eviction threat to peer lifted

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE Marquess of Bristol may be able to remain at his ancestral home, Ickworth House in Suffolk, from which he had faced eviction.

The National Trust started proceedings earlier this year to make him leave the 18th-century mansion, donated to it by his family in 1956 in lieu of death duties. The peer's trustees are now completing a deal with the trust to allow him to stay.

After the handover of the mansion, the National Trust allowed the family to continue living in the east wing on a 99-year lease. But in February the trust served notice on the peer's trustees because of his drug use, and allegations of reckless driving on estate roads and the behaviour of one of his Irish wolfhounds, said to have bitten visitors.

The trust's executive committee said at the time it had lost patience with the peer's "persistent breaches of the terms of his lease", and his jail sentence last year for possession of cocaine and heroin was the last straw. However, yesterday a National Trust spokesman said: "Amicable and constructive discussions have enabled both sides to agree on a revised legal document which will ensure that the problems in the past will not recur."

The eviction proceedings have been put on hold until the end of October by which time the agreement is expected to be finalised. It has always been the trust's wish that a representative of the family should live at Ickworth if suitable terms can be negotiated.

Lord Bristol, 39, is to appear before Horsferry Road magistrates in London on Tuesday to be sentenced for possessing cocaine and heroin. He was arrested two days after completing his last jail sentence.

Boy aged two found dead in fish pond

A toddler found dead in a neighbour's fish pond could have wandered off to try out his new Wellington boots, police said. Christopher Woods, two, was discovered by his father, Stephen 40 yards from the family's home in Earby, Lancashire, after a two-hour search on Thursday evening.

Detective Inspector Ted Norris said there was nothing suspicious about the boy's death. "He had his new Wellington boots on. He could have gone to the pond to try them out or could have just gone to look at the goldfish."

Attacker freed

A student who attacked a lecturer with a knife after being told she had failed her teaching course was put on probation on condition she received psychiatric treatment. At Gloucester Crown Court, Barbara Johnson, 29, admitted attacking Geoffrey Price at Gloucester College of Higher Education.

Sentence query

Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, yesterday referred to the Court of Appeal the "unduly lenient" sentence on a lorry driver who knocked down and killed a boy aged 17, Lee Taziker, 25, of Tunbridge Wells, Kent, was sentenced to 240 hours' community service for causing death by drink-driving.

Help for police

Three of the four policemen who attended the scene of the crash near Andover, Hampshire, in which a mother and her two young children were killed when their Range Rover hit a lorry are receiving counselling. A police spokesman said that the officers were severely traumatised by the accident.

Punched out

Two would-be thieves fled empty-handed after Rhoda Thompson, 74, punched one in the stomach as he went through her handbag. The pair, aged 18 to 20, about 5ft 6in and slimly built, had tricked their way into her home in Badsey, Hereford and Worcester, pretending that they were jobbing gardeners.

False start

Solo yachtswoman Lisa Clayton, 35, was returning to port yesterday, five days after leaving on a round-the-world trip. Her 39ft boat, *Spirit of Birmingham* developed minor problems and has been recalled for repairs. Ms Clayton, from Birmingham, wants to become the first woman to sail totally unaided round the world non-stop.

Eubank defeat

A £6 million offer by Chris Eubank, the super-middle-weight world boxing champion, for Brighton's West Pier was rejected yesterday. He wants the pavilion as a home for himself and the rest as a restaurant, conference hall and casino. The trustees want a £15 million restoration to satisfy English Heritage.

'I would like to draw a line under this disagreement with Peking'

Hurd declares faith in Patten

Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, tomorrow begins an Asian tour that will take him to Hong Kong at a sensitive time. He will be in the colony just as the constitutional reforms introduced by Chris Patten, the Governor, are put to their first test in local elections.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Hurd indicated that he intended during his visit to signal an end to the acrimonious row with Peking over Hong Kong's electoral system. "I would like how to draw a line under this disagreement. It has been resolved, by the Legislative Council (LegCo) vote and by China's saying that they do not accept the reforms — although I note that they have been very careful not to say what they would put in their place, or how they will seek to make changes consistent with the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration and their Basic Law for Hong Kong."

"Nothing is going to change that now. Elections will take place next month, and there will be elections next year, and there is no purpose in discussing that any more. But mutual interest says there are a whole lot of other matters where we need to get on with some work and I hope that mutual interests will prevail."

Did this mean that, in his view, Mr Patten had carried out the pledges made when he arrived in Hong Kong two years ago, and that now was a time to tread more carefully with China — even if this

The Foreign Secretary discusses the future of Hong Kong with Rosemary Righter and David Watts and takes issue with Sir Percy Cradock, former adviser to Margaret Thatcher and Ambassador to Peking

meant postponing such measures as rescinding laws abridging press freedom in Hong Kong that are likely to offend Peking? No, Mr Hurd said. "There is a good deal of work going on, for example on the press laws and on legal aid — specifically Hong Kong issues — and Chris will be setting out his stall in his annual speech to LegCo next month. I will discuss that with him, but it is obviously his responsibility."

What Mr Hurd meant was that, for the next few years, "the Chinese have a choice, and it is overwhelmingly in their interest and Hong Kong's that the rest of the business of the handover — such as in the [Sino-British] Joint Liaison Group where the localisation of legislation for 1997 is well behind schedule — should go ahead."

The Chinese appear in no mood to agree. Just before the Patten Bill went through the Legislative Council in July, the Chinese government changed tack and lobbied strenuously to secure its rejection. Nothing rankles more than a battle joined only to be lost, and there has since been a perceptible hardening of the

Chinese attitude. Mr Hurd is to meet Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, during the UN General Assembly in New York this month, and Chinese diplomats are intimating that Mr Qian will have little to say. Mr Hurd brushed this aside. "If it means not much more to say on that dispute, that is what we seek," he said.

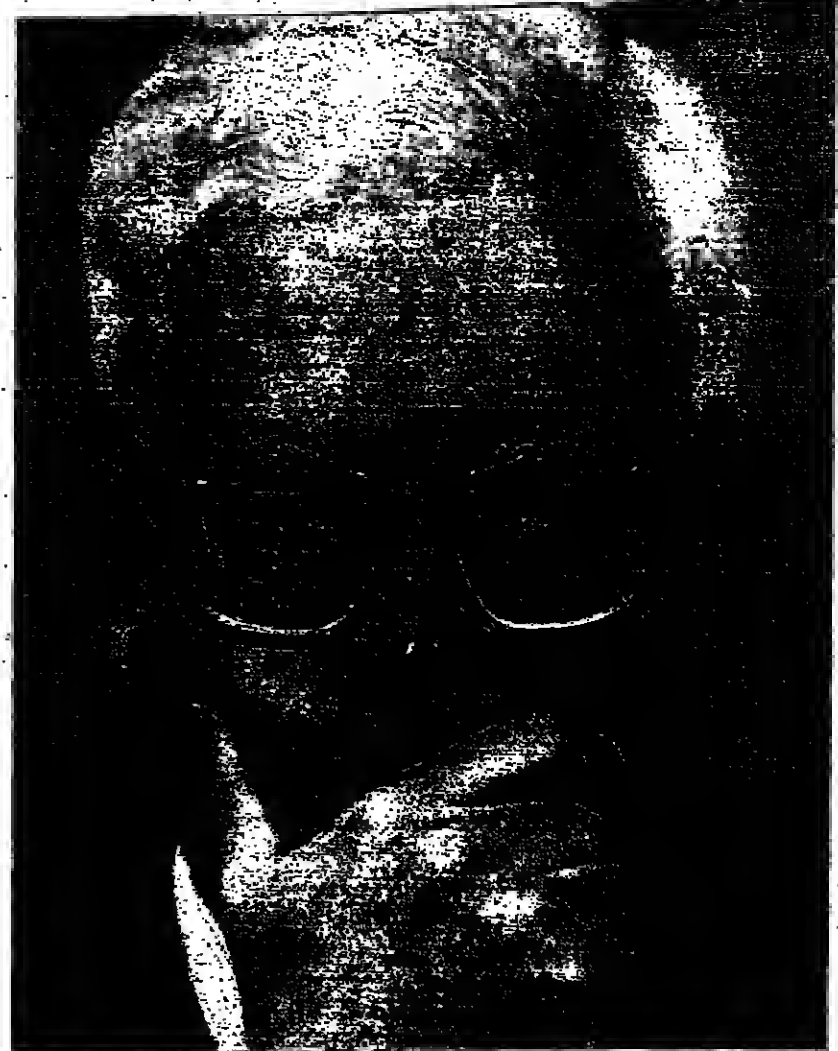
Mr Hurd will find Hong Kong once more buzzing with debate over the continuing attacks on British policy by Sir Percy Cradock, the "old China hand" and former Ambassador to Peking who, until 1992, exercised enormous influence on Hong Kong policy from Downing Street, where he was Margaret Thatcher's political adviser. His latest broadside, published in *The Times* last week, claimed that the Patten strategy had put "the Chinese commitment to the Joint Declaration, the territory's sheet anchor" under strain.

The Foreign Secretary's reaction was sharp. "I find that a very tortuous line of argument. The Joint Declaration set out quite clearly a path towards constitution-

al reform and the growth of democracy. To say that [because] we have trodden this path in a particular way we are actually putting at risk the performance of other parts of the Joint Declaration — I don't see the logic of that. But I think that the degree of support which the Governor has retained for his particular approach shows that very large numbers of Hong Kong people prefer his interpretation to Sir Percy's."

Hong Kong apart, Mr Hurd will skirt around other South-East Asian trouble spots on his tour. "I don't think it is a question of flashpoints," he said. "This is a part of the world which is expanding very fast, that doesn't actually have any huge flashpoints... There is a Korea problem which could become dangerous, but it's not a flashpoint."

The trip provides an opportunity to put in a few influential words on South-East Asia's convoluted policy towards the Burmese dictatorship, and to remind the Thais that the world is aware of the connection between the porous Thai-Cambodian border and the continued access of the Khmer Rouge to guns and money. But some will question whether justified additions to the Foreign Secretary's already over-crammed diary are his visits to Bangkok and Hanoi to secure new markets in Thailand and Vietnam. The same applies to his stop in Tokyo to get to know a Japanese government that may not long remain in power.



Hurd: keeping his sights set on the growth of democracy in Hong Kong

Accord near on family planning

FROM MICHAEL BENVEN IN CAIRO

WITH most countries now ready to abandon attempts to seek agreement from the Vatican, the Cairo population conference yesterday moved rapidly closer to final agreement on a global strategy to promote family planning and raise the resources to pay for greatly increased spending.

Further modifications to the contentious paragraph on abortion were overwhelmingly approved, with only a hard core of Roman Catholic countries holding out. The text will be discussed in full on Monday after the translation from the English original into the other five languages of the United Nations. But officials were hopeful that the ambiguous passages could be clarified and other sensitive points dealt with in footnotes.

The delegations from more than 170 countries yesterday worked flat-out to meet the weekend deadline for approval of the 113-page document, spending most time on finances and resources to translate into action the proposals to stabilise the world population, now growing by 90 million a year, at no more than 10 billion by the middle

of the 21st century. A raft of contentious issues was settled as pressure increased on delegates for tangible progress.

Britain announced it was happy with new wording on migration that upholds the right of family reunion; China's concerns about "human rights" were side-stepped; Muslim countries withdrew their protest from the conference's footnote on the controversial phrase "families and other unions" to explain that this refers only to heterosexual unions which might, in some countries, involve polygamy, and the Group of 77 developing countries favoured a deletion to refer to "good governance, transparency and curbing corruption", complaining that such conditions lacked dignity.

There was lingering disagreement over abortion. Barbara Chalker of Wallasey, the Overseas Development Minister, said the preoccupation with abortion had not damaged the conference outcome, but added: "I think it may make some Roman Catholics think again in some countries."



POPULATION CONFERENCE

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'We saw this huge stack of smoke over the hill followed by many explosions and sparks flying'

Pittsburgh mourns 132 victims of crash

FROM TOM RHODES IN ALIQUIPPA, PENNSYLVANIA

EXPERTS yesterday began the task of sifting through the wreckage of USAir Flight 427 which nosedived into a ravine outside Pittsburgh and exploded in flames, killing all 132 passengers and crew.

The Boeing 737-300, on its final approach to Pittsburgh International Airport, went out of control on Thursday evening and ploughed into dense forests at Aliquippa in the Hopewell district of Pennsylvania, seven miles short of the runway. The crash was American aviation's fifth worst involving a single plane in the past 15 years, excluding the terrorist bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988. According to witnesses, the 737, flying

from O'Hare International Airport in Chicago to West Palm Beach, corkscrewed at an 80-degree angle before being engulfed in a fireball seconds after hitting the ground.

"It made a sound like no aeroplane I have ever heard," said Pauline Aurin, who had been eating dinner with her husband Donald, a local steel worker, when the aircraft screamed over their bungalow. "We saw this huge stack of smoke over the hill followed by many explosions and sparks flying." Mr Aurin ran to offer help but was told to leave by emergency workers who had sealed off an area the size of two football pitches where wreckage hung from trees.

At midnight, Mark Singel, the Lieutenant-Governor of Pennsylvania, arrived to mastermind the emergency operation which involved firemen, state troopers, members of the FBI, medical units and other special forces. Mr Singel gave a grim account of his visit to the crash site. "It is something you would never want to see," he said. "It was absolute carnage."

Six amateur video cameramen were arrested for trying to scale the hillsides. Mr Singel said that 60 troopers would guard the area around the crash to prevent any further incursions. Meanwhile, Federico Pena, the US Transport Secretary, accompanied 20 coroners and pathologists to

the site. It is likely to take months for teams from the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board to decide exactly what happened to Flight 427. Officials merely confirmed that there was no explosive device on board and that the black box had been sent to Washington for investigation.

The Boeing, which in the words of one witness "rolled right over a couple or three times", was seven years old. "The aircraft has been very well maintained," a USAir spokesman said, adding that 737s had a reputation for reliability. In cases such as Thursday night's, where there is clear weather and good visibility, pilots tend to switch off computer assistance and personally operate the controls for the landing approach. Flight 427 should have been flying at 6,000ft as part of a long loop over Pittsburgh before lining up with the runway for the final descent. Experts believe that there may have been either a seizure in any number of the operating controls or engine failure.

Among the first questions that the investigators will want to answer is whether the engines were turning over at the 105-knot (110mph) minimum required to keep them running. "The 737 can fly on one engine," said Paul McDuffey, former chief pilot of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida. "However, if you fly at a slow speed when one fails, and you don't get the other one in and make the proper control response at the time, you can go into a roll."

In Pittsburgh and the surrounding towns and villages yesterday, there was an atmosphere of intense gloom. The international airport had built up a reputation as one of the safest in America. Schools in Hopewell were closed for the day and local radio stations declined to broadcast music, instead fielding calls from locals trying to come to terms with the accident.

Experts puzzled, page 1



A woman, left, is hugged in relief her daughter after flying to Chicago from Pittsburgh shortly after the crash there

BA's global airline strategy hit by setback for American partner

BY COLIN NARBROUGH

THE crash at Pittsburgh of a Boeing 737 of USAir, the sixth largest American carrier, has brought into brutal focus the string of troubles that have beset British Airways' American partner.

USAir was supposed to provide BA with the decisive American link in its strategy to create a global airline, giving it "seamless" access to domestic American routes. In fact, however, the 24.6 per cent stake BA bought in the company for £258 million last year is merely bringing it problems. City analysts see USAir as the riskiest part of BA's expansion.

BA's share price dropped 10p to 400p yesterday morning on news of the crash. USAir's shares slumped 50 cents in New York. BA has already warned its shareholders that it may be forced to

write off its entire investment in USAir if the airline's finances worsen.

If the airline is now boycotted by nervous passengers, such a write-off could prove inevitable. Air transport analysts, however, doubt that the Pittsburgh crash will have

financial difficulties at USAir and has said that he is not prepared to increase BA's investment in the American carrier unless it is well on course for recovery.

BA yesterday said the disaster was "tragic, but would not affect the relation-

ships and earnings. It has lost \$1.8 billion (£1.17 billion) since then. This year the airline expects to show an even bigger loss than the \$349 million that it reported last year.

A BA spokesman said yesterday that the restructuring process at USAir was fully underway but that Sir Colin would have to approve it before BA's investment could be increased. The tough line taken by BA is designed to help USAir's management urgently to reduce its cost base, which is far too high compared with those of its American rivals.

USAir's troubles are a serious disappointment for BA, which fought long and hard against the US airline industry's attempts to block its entry into the domestic American market.

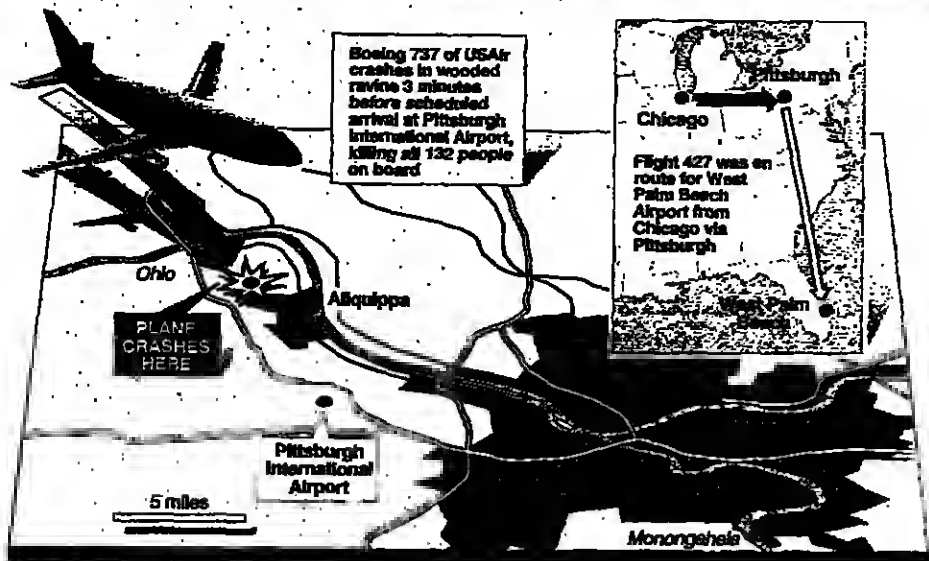
The crash was tragic, but will not affect the relationship between the two airlines

much effect on USAir's business prospects. They point out that, although the crash was the airline's fifth in five years, no common thread linked them. As a high frequency airline, USAir is statistically more likely to have accidents.

Sir Colin Marshall, BA's chairman, has made no secret of his deep concern about the

ship between the two airlines". A BA spokesman emphasised that the crash was a purely USAir matter.

USAir, in contrast to the highly profitable BA, has been in the red since 1988, hit by the fierce price wars that have affected all the big American carriers, as low-cost airlines erode their market



Baby that rose to be bestseller

THE Boeing 737 is the best-selling commercial jetliner of all time. Millions of holiday-makers have used the jet, which began life in 1967 as the "baby Boeing" (Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent, writes).

When, two years earlier, the Boeing board had given approval to build the jet which was to revolutionise package holidays, its rivals, including Britain's BAC 111, had been flying for more than two years. Not only did the aircraft have

to compete with foreign and other American competition but it also had to battle for attention within Boeing, whose backers scoffed at the small upstart. Now, however, the 737 has fully justified the faith, with more than 3,000 produced in eight separate versions. USAir alone has more than 100 and orders are still being taken from around the world. Many British charter airlines are switching from the 737 to

bigger aircraft such as the Boeing 757 or even 767 or ordering the European Airbus A320 with its advanced electronics and side-stick controller. About ten are in service with charter airlines, compared with 100 two years ago. The 737 is still in use with British Airways and British Midland, however, and — apart from a tendency to "play up" unwary pilots on approach, is popular and easy to fly.



The attitude of American presidents to Cuba as portrayed by Mike Peters in the Dayton Daily News

Washington 'recruiting refugees to bolster Haiti invasion plans'

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE United States, intensifying its plans to invade Haiti, was said yesterday to be recruiting Haitian refugees at its Guantanamo Bay naval base and in America to form part of a temporary civilian police force that would help to keep order after an invasion.

The Clinton Administration is preparing a series of briefings for congressmen next week to try to ward off mounting opposition to the invasion on Capitol Hill. President Clinton and his advisers have also reported yesterday to have reached a consensus to give Haiti's military leaders an ultimatum to step down or be removed forcibly.

In Rio de Janeiro, a meeting of 14 Latin American nations was expected to issue a statement at Washington's bidding demanding that the Haiti regime hand over power immediately. The Pentagon has quietly increased the size of the

planned invasion force to more than 15,000, but is anxious that those troops should be withdrawn as fast as possible once the regime is ousted. The Administration envisages an internationally monitored interim police force moving in within days of the invasion and staying until a permanent police force of 4,000 Haitians is properly trained by the US Justice Department.

USA Today reported yesterday that the United States planned to return Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Haiti's exiled President, to his country days after removing the regime that toppled him three years ago. The Los Angeles Times said Mr Clinton and his aides had agreed the invasion should be preceded by a ultimatum giving the regime 24 or 48 hours to leave. Before any ultimatum, the United States might also send a

private message to Haiti's military leaders offering them and their families safe passage into exile.

The expectation in Washington is that the invasion will take place between the end of this month and the middle of next month. Mr Clinton will start trying to rally public and congressional support for the use of American troops in Haiti, although he does not intend to seek formal congressional approval.

He faces a formidable task. Opinion polls show that nearly two-thirds of Americans oppose an invasion, and Congress is becoming increasingly vocal in its opposition. Robert Dole, the Republican minority leader in the Senate, is demanding a congressional vote, saying "the President has not made his case for an invasion", and David Boren, a senior Democratic senator, made the same point in a letter

to Mr Clinton. Nearly 140 House Democrats and Republicans have urged the President to seek congressional authorisation.

John Murtha, a senior Democratic congressman from Pennsylvania, is arguing that the Administration should delay the invasion until after November's congressional elections to undermine Republican accusations that Mr Clinton is seeking electoral advantage. Dan Quayle, the former Vice-President, claimed on Thursday that Mr Clinton was plotting the invasion "to try to increase his standing in the polls".

□ Miami: Cubans returning to Havana on the few remaining charter flights from Miami are being searched for hidden dollars. They are allowed to take no more than \$100 (£65) as a result of the restriction imposed by Mr Clinton on August 26.

Bush and Clinton kin win primaries

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

JEB Bush, the second son of former President Bush who wants to be Florida's next Governor, and Hugh Rodham, Hillary Clinton's younger brother who wants to be one of the Sunshine State's two senators, both won their primaries on Thursday, but without the simple majority of votes they required to avoid run-offs.

Dan Quayle, Mr Bush's former Vice-President, meanwhile began his quest for the Republicans' 1996 presidential nomination by defiantly resurrecting his favourite theme of "family values" in the first of a series of key speeches he will deliver this autumn.

Mr Quayle was revived in the 1992 presidential campaign when he blamed America's social ills on the decline of the

two-parent family, but even President Clinton has since conceded that he had a point. This week, however, Mr Quayle's standing suffered a fresh blow with the disclosure that he was nearly dumped from the 1992 Republican ticket.

Mary Malala, the Bush campaign's political director, wrote in a new book that the Republicans' private polls showed "a potential 4-6 percentage point net gain" if Mr Bush dropped Mr Quayle as his running mate. The President's closest friends began discussing how to persuade the Vice-President to step aside, but were pre-empted by a Quayle aide's timely leak to the press. Reporters naturally asked Mr Bush directly whether Mr Quayle's position was in jeopardy and "at that point, with no plan in place,

the President had no choice but to reply, 'No, it's very certain'."

Jeb Bush, 41, won his Republican gubernatorial primary with about 46 per cent of the vote against three challengers and is now the clear favourite to win the October 4 run-off to face Lawton Chiles, Florida's Democratic Governor, on November 8. Mr Chiles is vulnerable, but has been helped in the polls by his firm response to the Cuban refugee crisis.

Mr Rodham, 43, won his Democratic senatorial primary with barely a third of the votes cast in a four-way race. He has never run for public office before. Even if he manages to win the October 4 run-off, he is thought to have practically no chance of defeating Connie Mack, the present Republican senator.

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Arabs talk of Libya sanction deal

Gaddafi 'ready to yield Abu Nidal'

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

LIBYA has offered to hand over Abu Nidal, one of the world's most wanted terrorists, to the United States in exchange for the relaxation of United Nations sanctions. The *Jerusalem Post* claimed in a front-page report yesterday.

The paper, owned by Conrad Black, the media tycoon, attributed its report to unidentified Arab diplomatic sources in London. It claimed that the offer was transmitted via the London-based conglomerate Lomho, whose chief executive Roland ("Tiny") Rowland has close business ties with Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader.

According to the paper's London correspondent Douglas Davis, the Arab sources said that Lomho was approached with the offer by Omar Montasser, the Libyan Foreign Minister. There had been no official response from Washington, which has described the Nidal group as "one of the world's most

violent and dangerous terrorist organisations. The State Department has accused it of staging attacks in 20 countries on three continents, killing more than 300 people.

Last night, Mr Rowland, who is travelling in Africa, categorically denied the report. He told *The Times*: "This is a pack of lies from beginning to end. We have never been approached by Mr Montasser, nor do we know anything about Abu Nidal."

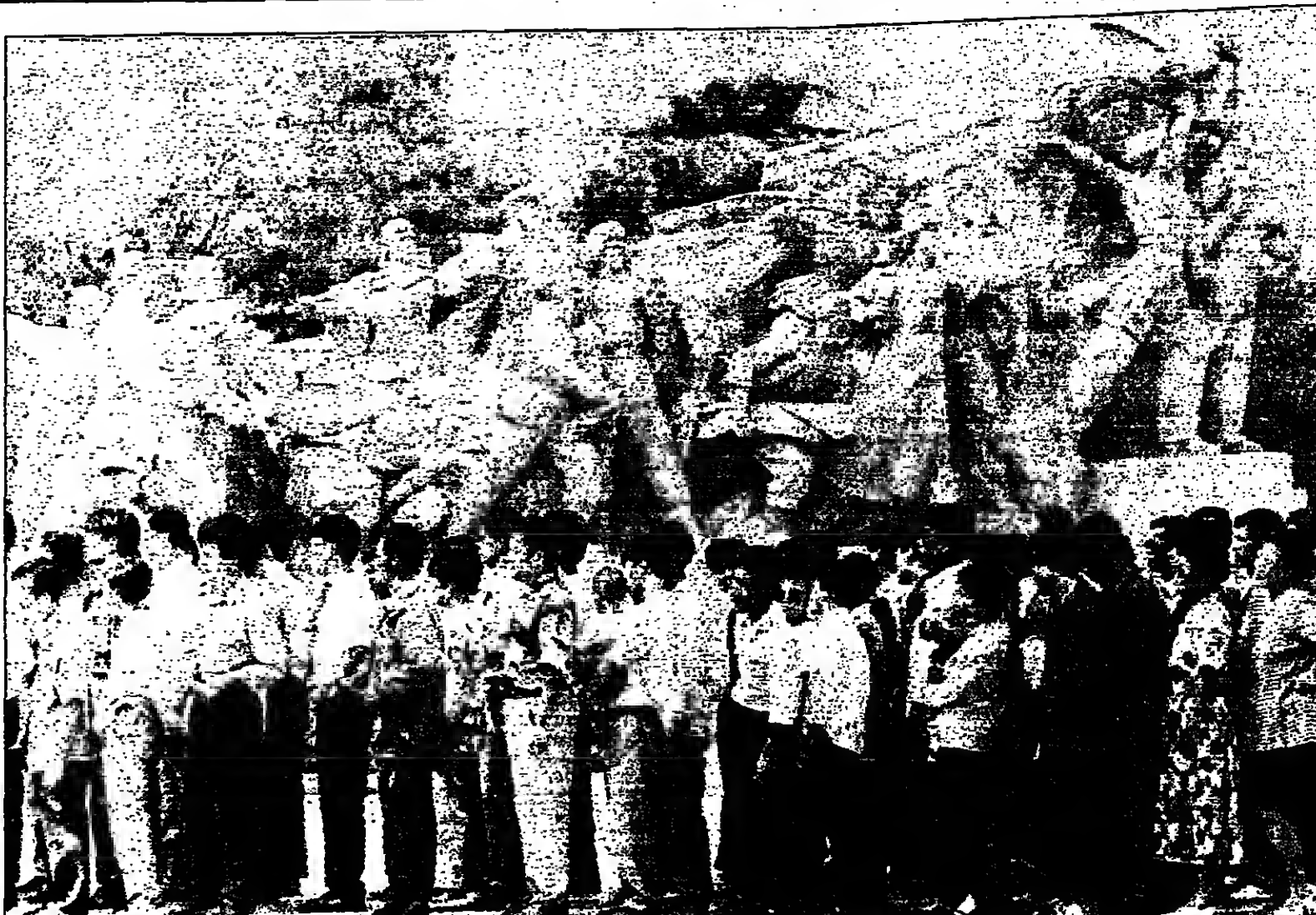
The *Post* report said: "The [Arab] sources said that the Libyan offer to hand over Abu Nidal, like the Sudanese decision to deliver Ilich Ramirez Sanchez (Carlos the Jackal) to the French authorities last month, is an indication that maverick Arab leaders perceive an advantage in co-operating with Washington."

Like Carlos, Abu Nidal, whose nom de guerre means "Father of the Struggle", is regarded in Western intelligence circles as a played-out

figure whose Marxist revolutionary slogans have become outdated. Aged 57, the Palestinian terrorist leader is believed to be in poor health and living under virtual house arrest in or near the Libyan capital, Tripoli. Some reports have claimed that he had open heart surgery three years ago.

One Western official in the Middle East said that the report of the Libyan offer was feasible as Colonel Gaddafi was known to fear that Washington will be pushing hard for oil to be added to the UN sanctions against Libya if he does not hand over the two agents accused of the 1988 bombing over Lockerbie.

The official claimed that both America and Britain would welcome the chance to put Abu Nidal on trial. But he denied that any handover would be sufficient to persuade the West to call off the sanctions imposed to force Libya to hand over the Lockerbie suspects for trial.

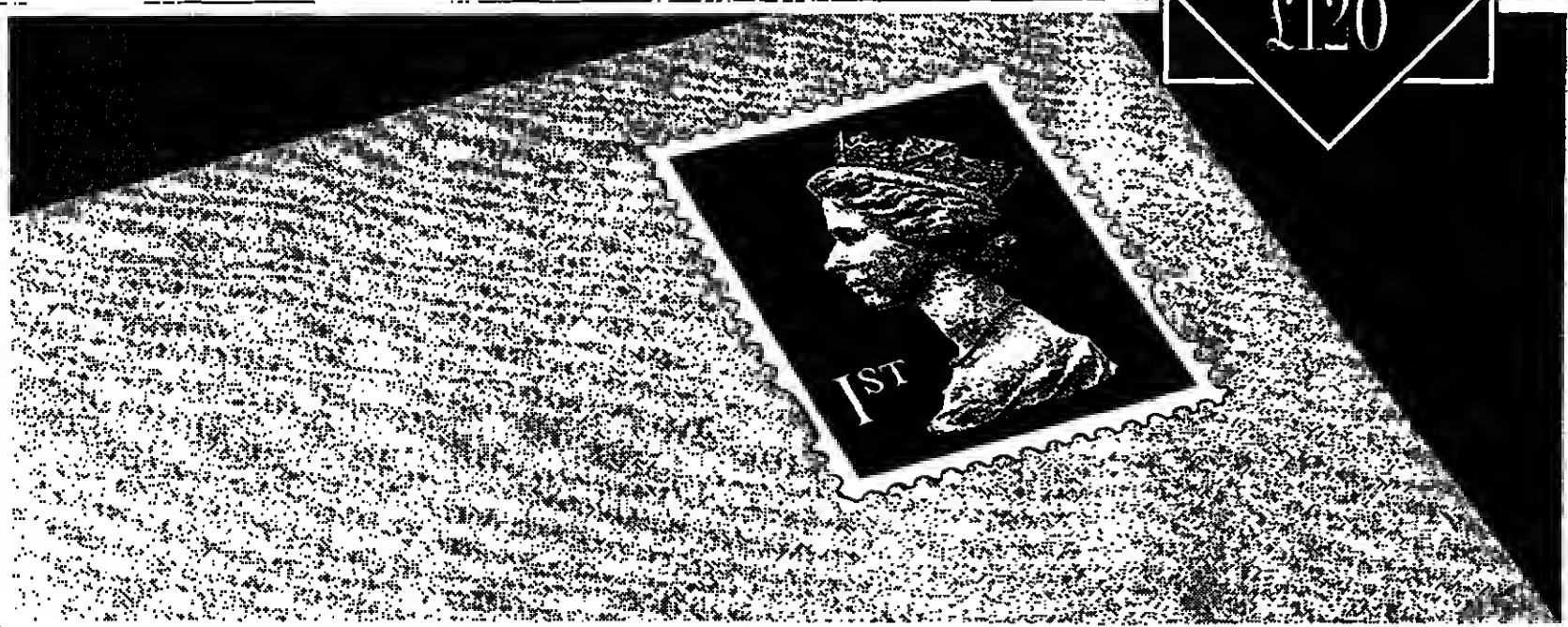


Pilgrims queuing to visit Mao Tse-tung's mausoleum in central Peking yesterday, the 18th anniversary of the Chinese leader's death

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Hopes for ship's crew fade

London: Fears have grown for 24 sailors who abandoned a sinking ore carrier in the South Atlantic nearly a week ago after rescuers spotted an empty lifeboat and life raft. Rescuers had been encouraged on Thursday when weak radio signals were picked up from the area where the 48,756-tonne *Fron Antonis* sank last Saturday.

A Brazilian Hercules aircraft spotted the first empty lifeboat and the lifeboat was sighted by an RAF Hercules. The *Fron Antonis* crewed by three Greek officers and 21 Filipinos, was on its way from Brazil to China when it sank midway between the islands of Tristan da Cunha and St Helena. (Reuters)

Grenade attack

Bujumbura: A grenade thrown into a market in the Burundian capital wounded 40 people. No group claimed responsibility. The country has suffered many such attacks recently. (Reuters)

Assets sold

Delhi: Ten years after a leak at its Bhopal chemical plant led to the deaths of more than 3,000 people, the American-based Union Carbide Corporation has sold its Indian assets to a local firm. (Reuters)

Satellite 'lost'

Paris: Contact has been lost with a satellite launched by an Ariane rocket in French Guiana yesterday for AT&T, the US telecommunications giant. The firm admitted that there was a problem. (Reuters)

Bus killings

Srinagar: Indian security forces in Kashmir, under attack from separatist militants, shot at a bus, killing ten passengers. Officials said the forces recovered weapons from the vehicle. (AP)

Bank stabbing

Nicosia: A Cypriot bank manager was seriously ill after being repeatedly stabbed by a customer with psychiatric problems who demanded higher interest rates on his account. (Reuters)

Wife of Abiola fears for health

FROM MICHAEL HAMILYN IN LAGOS

ALHAJA Kadiratu, the senior wife of Chief Moshood Abiola, the Nigerian politician detained and charged with treason, is bitter about the way her husband is being treated and fears for his health. She is particularly angry with General Sani Abacha, the military dictator, whom she says is ignorant, stupid, corrupt and mean.

Chief Abiola was arrested in Lagos on June 23 and, as he was put on an air force plane to Kano in northern Nigeria, she watched in tears.

As one of Africa's richest men, Chief Abiola was an unlikely candidate for the left-leaning Social Democratic Party in last year's presidential election. Throughout the campaign, General Ibrahim Babangida, the military leader, said he intended to hand over to civilian rule.

As the poll papers came in it was plain that Chief Abiola had won, but the elections were annulled by General Babangida, and when the chief declared himself President a year later he was arrested.

Mrs Abiola blames General Abacha, who seized power last November, for attempts to "demoralise and dehumanise" her husband in prison. Despite a court order that he should be allowed to receive newspapers and magazines, the security police said he should not be given them.

These orders led to a struggle between the chief and his jailer, Lawal Katsina. The back injuries which Chief Abiola suffered in the struggle were the subject of a medical report last week, which called for his release for medical treatment.

Medical tests: Chief Abiola was examined by four doctors this week after the Nigerian Medical Association said last week he was in poor health. The results have yet to be released. (AFP)

Who says you can't afford a Golf?

(See page 37 for the full picture.)



Take a pick in science's lucky dip

Nigel Hawkes enjoys the scientific jamboree at Loughborough

Science, unlike the arts, has few seasonal events to punctuate its year. No Proms, no Bayreuth Festival, no picnics on the Glyndebourne lawns. In reality, there is only one meeting where those for a passion for science, both amateur and professional, can meet and refresh their minds.

The British Association for the Advancement of Science, originally established more than 150 years ago by a group of enthusiasts disgusted by the state of Britain's scientific institutions, has since become an institution in its own right. But enthusiasm remains its ruling sentiment.

This year's festival, just ended at the Loughborough University of Technology, provided another shot of the well-loved blend. Scientific meetings these days are bedeviled by the concept of the "smallest publishable unit". To make the most of their ideas, scientists salami-slice them into as many fragments as they can. A single successful experiment can make at least two papers and a conference lecture: so it is rare to be struck by a huge new advance in any field, and there was none on view at Loughborough.

What was available was a lucky dip of science ranging from the serious to the almost silly. Some of the talks, I felt, might usefully have been repeated in the television schedules to indicate that this was not their first network showing. But the BA has no need of apology: opera enthusiasts will turn up for Eugene Onegin year after year without complaint. About 2,000 participants attended the festival, and many hundreds of thousands more enjoyed it through the generous media coverage it invariably attracts.

But science still remains a minority pursuit, even in a century that it has shaken. To scientists this is a puzzle, but the answer lies in the very professionalisation of science that the founders of the BA were so anxious to achieve. Once science had become a profession, the non-scientist no longer felt any obligation to try to understand it.

At school, the choice between science and the arts is abrupt and early. Those of us who chose the scientific route sometimes feel, with only slight exaggeration, that we are the only properly educated people around. For it is easy enough to pick up the English novel or a working grasp of history from casual reading. Newspapers and television are so stuffed with the arts culture that one would need to be a hermit to avoid acquiring a decent working knowledge. Few people on the other side of the divide, alas, feel any obligation to reciprocate.

The scientific community and the Government have often been mocked on stage pages for arguing that Britain needs more scientists and engineers. There is no evidence from the operation of the labour markets that we do, as Professor Alan Smithers of the University of Manchester told the festival yesterday. Salaries in science and engineering are low, secure careers hard to find, and the movement from good researchers to jobs abroad makes it clear that we are training at least as many as we can easily support.

The trouble is that science is seen as a vocation, not an education. The odds are that many more people could enjoy the intellectual satisfactions it offers if only they were not required to pretend at the age of 16 that they were destined for life in the laboratory. Like arts graduates, they should be encouraged to treat a science degree as a preparation for working life. To achieve that, as Professor Smithers and many others have argued, will require a recasting of the A-level syllabus so that it can be broadened from three subjects to five, postponing the moment of decision until 18.

Why might people find life sweeter if they knew some science? For a start, it is an irresistibly optimistic activity, always expecting success rather than dwelling on failure. Those who work in science seldom fall into gloom, unless it is because someone else has beaten them to a new idea, and then not for long. Fresh horizons constantly beckon.

Science, too, blends competition and co-operation in a way that could serve as a model for many other human activities. A scientist may want to excel, but cannot do so without the help of others. Finally, in a century that is increasingly the product of scientific understanding, to cultivate ignorance or even to boast of it is to deny the very world you live in. And denial, the psychiatrists tell us, is not a healthy state of mind.

I do not pretend that every individual has the capacity to be stirred by every scientific discovery, any more than we can all enjoy Hindemith or the older works of modern art. Like all human activity, science can encompass the true as well as the tremendous. Some fields delight in teasing evidence for the stunningly obvious while others demand a steep entry fee in terms of intellectual effort.

What science cannot get away with is misrepresenting how nature works, and for me that remains its strongest attraction. If you really value truth, you cannot turn your back on science.

Theodore Zeldin offers food for thought on how our sexual options narrowed as our diet expanded

Why eating is more interesting than sex

People with power, particularly just below the top echelon, tend to be pessimists, because it suggests wisdom. They base their judgment on a vision of life haunted by conflict and failure. And those who have had the most influence on our ideas about personal relationships have also bequeathed a gloomy outlook to us, focusing on unhappy childhoods creating vicious circles from which it is hard to escape.

A longer, broader view, incorporating all civilisations past and present, examining all the emotions, shows we are not so helpless. Over the centuries, new forms of love have been invented when old ones, supposedly immutable, have proved disappointing. Families, confronted by insoluble crises, have changed their minds about what they want from each other. Some men and women have overcome conventional barriers and learnt to have interesting conversations. Some have freed themselves from fear or immiseration themselves against loneliness.

Many of the emotional impasses which confront us are of our own making. Compare, for example, the history of cooking and sex: one has celebrated the variety of life, while the other has been constrained by narrowing obsessions.

The world was for long divided into three major empires, based on the three main staple foods: wheat, rice and maize. But what separated people even more was the sauce or spice they added: olive oil in the Mediterranean, soya in China, chilli in Mexico, butter in northern Europe. The Russians, accustomed to living on rye bread, rioted in the 1840s when the government tried to persuade them to grow potatoes; but

within 50 years they were in love with potatoes. The explanation is that they added the same soursness — kislota — which had always given savour to their food, and which was what they were ultimately addicted to. For their part, the Americans used sugar to make almost every packaged food superficially palatable. Every people puts its own scent on its food, and it accepts change only if it can conceal it by smothering each novelty in its scent. In politics, economics and culture too, effective change is only possible if this premise is accepted.

Culinary progress was thus achieved not by conquest but by a subtle assimilation of foreign foods and condiments. Chinese food reached its apogee in the 12th century thanks to the importations of adventurous merchants. The food of Europe was orientalised by the medieval passion for Indian spices, before it was Americanised by the introduction of the potato and the tomato. Nouvelle cuisine was the result of a graft of Japanese ideas on French tradition. Forks and spoons have contributed more to the reconciliation of people who cannot agree than guns and bombs ever did. Cooking has developed curiosity and hospitality, and not just satisfied greed.

By contrast, the pleasures of sex have narrowed rather than broadened with the centuries. Pagan religions used to teach how to obtain in sexual relations something of the warmth and security, the sense of knowing where one belongs, that mother's cooking gives. The world was one great self-sustaining sexual machine: the sky impregnated the earth with its moisture, and every copulation was part of this permanent self-renewal. But modern intercourse is more lonely: we have lost the mystical sense of participating in a universal ritual.

Just as some people tired of mother's cooking, and started exotic restaurants for new sensations, so others sought new amusements in exotic beds. But whereas knowledge of food expanded, as a result of trade and travel, and cooking was endlessly adapted to changing needs, the erotic imagination became repetitive. By roughly AD450 the arts of sexual pleasure had been comprehensively described in the *Kama Sutra*. Europe added virtually nothing: its pornography encouraged addition to a small range of obsessions and fantasies.

How the sexual imagination got stuck can be seen in China, where the most exciting experience a man could have, between the 10th and 19th centuries, was to glimpse a woman's deformed feet, reduced to three or four inches in length by painful binding. Europe obtained similar satisfactions from the wasp

waist corset. Every generation believed it found freedom in its sexual fantasies, but it was simply tying the same old noose round its imagination. Sex was dominated by the ideas of conquest and submission. That is no longer adequate.

Cycles of sexual permissiveness and repression succeeded each other, producing the same disillusionment, and the same forgetfulness. Kinsey found that poor Americans devoted themselves at an early age "with single-minded commitment" to intercourse, making love before marriage seven times more frequently than the rich, using prostitutes three times more often.

The rich became increasingly preoccupied with breasts and foreplay, unlike the poor, who had doubts about experimentation and even about kissing, and considered rudity obscene. The rich and the poor alternately despised each other for bawdiness or decadence, and then copied the vices they denounced. Though scientists have taught us a great deal about the physiology of sex, they have led many to believe that relations can be reduced to a technique.

Comparing sex and cooking, illuminates differing strategies in the search for pleasure. Whereas restaurants have stimulated an ever greater variety of

tastes, much sexual feeling which never finds genital expression has been allowed to go to waste. Concentrating attention on the moment of triumph and surrender, has restricted the idea of sexual pleasure. Before contraceptives became available, couples would spend hour upon hour kissing. But in this century, touching has become the object of a new kind of censorship.

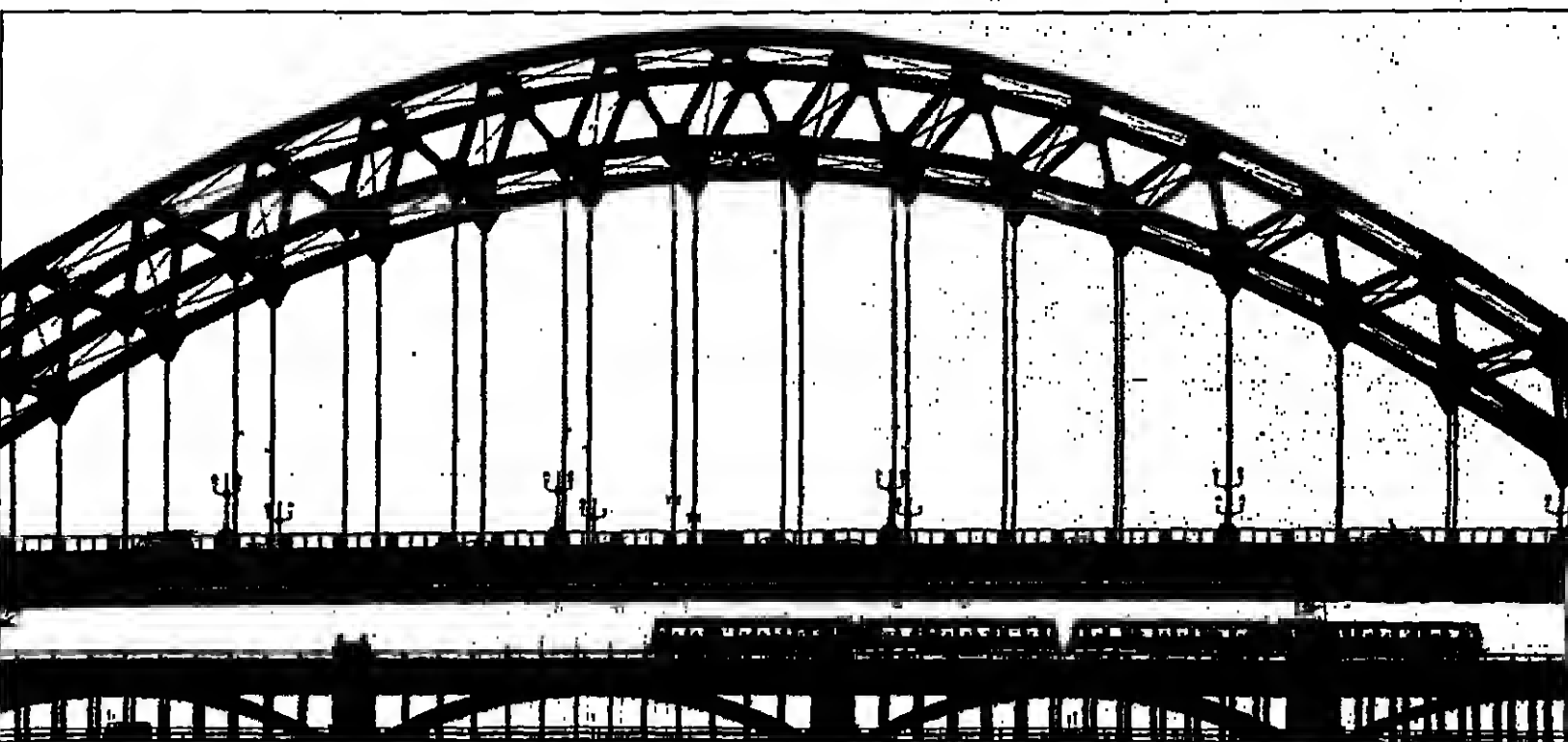
It has been forgotten that "to make love" once meant to court, so flirtation is less frequently cultivated as an art. Diderot defined love as "the possession and enjoyment of another being". This desire to possess still keeps lovers insecure, fearing loss, refusing to accept that a love has to be felt afresh every day. But the desire men have felt for women (and for other men) has altered through the ages, and could alter again.

When changes in the emotional content of business, politics, science, war and travel are similarly investigated, the general conclusion emerges that the "human condition" is not immutable. Humans have always found crevices through which to escape from supposed omnipotent social and economic forces.

The pessimism of our time is the product of a short memory. History, as I see it, has been a long search for relationships of different kinds — with soulmates, friends or strangers, with ideas, literature or art, or with God. Throughout, compassion has been the most frustrated of the emotions, more so than sex. To have an inspiring vision of the future, it is first necessary to have a more balanced vision of the past, less heroic, but also less sordid.

The author is a Fellow of St Antony's College, Oxford. His new book, *An Intimate History of Humanity* (Stanley Steiner), will be reviewed by Peter Ackroyd on Monday.

The demise of the last shipbuilder in Newcastle heralds a new opportunity for the people of the North's finest city



The bridges over the Tyne lead to a city that is rejuvenating itself by a policy of attracting young people to educational and cultural facilities

I wonder how many readers of *The Times* have ever been to Newcastle. Business may have taken them to Manchester, a damp holiday to the Lake District, a thirst for adventure to Liverpool. But to most Britons Newcastle is beyond the pale: it is *ultima thule*. Its image is that of skeletal shipyards rising from a sea of brown ale. Grim canyons sweep down from its bluffs into the oily depths of the Tyne. The place embodies recession. "Job losses" are to Newcastle what kneecappings are to Belfast, the stereotype that grabs the headlines. Outsiders go to Newcastle only when driven by necessity. When they do, they complain that the natives speak Viking.

Yesterday was no exception. Newcastle is identified with Swan Hunter. This week has driven the nail into the coffin of Newcastle's last shipyard. A French rescue company finally said it did not want Swans, for the understandable reason that the yard was incapable of winning orders for ships. Reporters may interview thickset men in gloomy pubs about "government betrayal", but Swans has long lived on the fat of Royal Navy contracts. A coalition of bad management and bad unions grew lethargic and uncompetitive. Now is too late. British governments have indeed betrayed Swans through years of protected contracts and lax cost control.

Some months ago, I flew over Swan Hunter in a helicopter. From the air, the place was already a scene out of Conrad: an isolated trading post clinging to the riverbank, dreaming of lost imperial glory. Two decades of catastrophe were evident on all sides. Mile upon mile of shipbuilding and repair yards once stretched down the Tyne to the sea, and round up the Wear from Sunderland. They are gone. In 1975, 30 per cent of the local workforce was still in ships, coal and steel. Today it is 1 per cent.

I saw docks that built the fleets of empire not only closed but razed, filled in, obliterated. Future tourists will see nothing of historic Tyneside. The estuary shorelines look as if some demented consultant had demanded the eradication of any trace of the past. The dim outlines of filled-in quays can be seen everywhere, like the mounds of vanished plague villages. Of an industry

that once built a quarter of the world's ships there are now only mud and seabirds.

Yet the people remain, brought to Tyneside by shipbuilding and now left stranded. Like Liverpudlians drawn to the Mersey by the North Atlantic trade, or Welshmen drawn to the Valleys by coal, these Georgians find themselves imprisoned by an outdated geography. The market tells them to go south, go inland, go anywhere else. Housing estates stretch across the hills of Wallerston, Jarrow, South Shields and Sunderland, but their occupants either work for government, directly or indirectly, or do not work at all. As the market attracted them, so now it is repelling them.

Stand at the top of Grey Street in Newcastle and you have to say, the gloom is premature. Unlike any other place I know, Tyneside has set its jaw against the economic hurricane and refused to give in. The wreckage has been surveyed, a deep breath taken and the pieces reassembled. The town's image that I described above is a travesty. Tyneside's cheerleaders recite the familiar litany of inward investors, technology parks, government subsidies, council initiatives and local entrepreneurs. I visited Newcastle ten years ago and found all these groups at their presence. Higher education — Newcastle and Northumbria universities and Newcastle College — involve more people in their work than shipbuilding even in its prime in the 1920s.

Most of these people are infuriated by

the obsession of the media and the Labour Party with Swan Hunter. It is as if London's political community saw shipbuilding on the Tyne as a heritage industry, a John Prescott memorial to British manufacturing. More Tynesiders work in any one of Newcastle's hospitals than in shipbuilding. Far more work in offshore rig servicing or in car components. Feature writers and Labour politicians do not race up the A1 to declare them a national treasure. The North East has moved on from all that.

Yet the mechanics of modern "job-creation" are not the most intriguing part of Newcastle's rebirth. Their benefits tend to be felt outside the city, in the commuter villages, the business parks, the out-of-town shopping malls. They lie like an inert gas, vanishing when times are hard. They ravage the countryside and suck the lifeblood from adjacent town shopping streets. No, Newcastle's fastest growth industry is now higher education. Almost 40,000 full and part-time students are packed into the city. They bring with them maintenance grants, teachers, hostels, restaurants, bookshops and above all, the fact of their presence. Higher education — Newcastle and Northumbria universities and Newcastle College — involve more people in their work than shipbuilding even in its prime in the 1920s.

Simon Jenkins

As Alastair Balls of the Urban Development Corporation acknowledges: "Students are the most significant growth sector in the city centre: they are keeping it alive."

Students come to Newcastle not out of direction but out of choice. They like the place because it has visual character. I believe that there is no resource more important to these old industrial cities than their appearance — and no handicap greater than their ugliness. What sets Newcastle apart are the streets created by Dobson and Grainger in the 1820s and 1830s: surely the finest, unvisited Regency townscape in England. Dobson's Grey Street runs in a magnificent curve down past the Theatre Royal to the Tyne. Neither Glas-

gow nor Dublin has anything to equal it. On the Quayside, fragments of the 17th and 18th-century city have been restored and linked in a continuous ribbon of river frontage.

Where the Tyne passes between Newcastle and Gateshead was once a Stygian ravine of fifth and rotting buildings. Its restored warehouses now glimmer as new. The five great bridges of the Tyne soar overhead, brilliantly lit at night. Those means of successful urban renewal, Porsches and Mercedes, are parked in the evening along Quayside.

as were the carriages of shipmasters a century ago. Across town, Newcastle United's sparkling new stadium at St James' Park shouts a similar message, that sport too can raise the morale of a community and confound defeatism.

Young people bring activity to a city deserted by traditional commerce. They think they are poor, but they bring grants, spending power and stimulus to the profitable re-use of ancient buildings. Central Newcastle now has three theatres, the Royal, the Tyne and the Live, as well as the Riverside night club. The arts, like leisure and catering, are parasitic on higher education. They generate a virtuous circle of expenditure on urban renewal.

The lesson of Newcastle's revival is that if it wants new investment it should build on its strengths, not its weaknesses. Blunty, it should make itself even more attractive to those fickle harbingers of urban renewal, the young. The era of John Poulson and T. Dan Smith left half a dozen boils on the face of the city centre, most of them now empty and festering. Nothing so defaces the image of Newcastle as these buildings. They contrive to block every vista, crush the Georgian scale of the city and blight its horizon. Many are empty and unlettable. They should be demolished immediately and filled in with facades compatible with the most beautiful city of the North, Newcastle has it within its power to rival Edinburgh and Bristol.

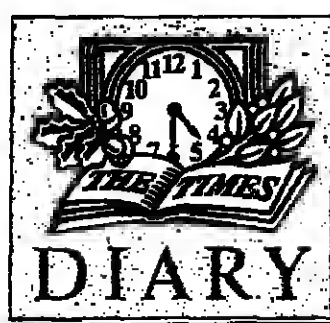
Saving Swans is the last thing the place needs. Saving Newcastle should be the priority.

Blue period

THE LABOUR leader's new spokesman, Alastair Campbell, has clearly made a name for himself in political circles. But in his youth, Campbell gave every indication of pursuing a literary rather than a political career. He used to pen signed sex confessions for the "girlie" magazine *Forum*.

"It's my pornographic past," he says ruefully. "Much of it was imagination. Certainly the one about being a gigolo was totally in the imagination." But Campbell's literary aspirations did not die when he tried of pornography.

Nearly a decade ago, the journalist-turned-propagandist yearned to make his fortune writing blockbusters and typed out a 50,000-word thriller on his new computer. Its central figure bore an uncanny resemblance to Margaret Thatcher's bulldog of a press secretary, Sir Bernard Ingham.



Trouble was that Campbell's partner, Fiona, also used the computer. "I think I did something quite extraordinary and managed to rub out the whole book. Nothing was retrievable," she says. "He didn't speak to me for a long time."

Readers of *Psychiatric Bulletin* will blanch when they stumble across an article in the current

issue under the section *Psychiatry and the Media*: "Killers and victims," by one K. McKenzie. Reassuringly, the man's name is Kwame, not Kelvin, former editor of *The Sun*.

Tony who?

KEN FOLLETT, the Labour-loving author, was inhaling the Islington air so beloved of Tony Blair on Thursday night. But it was not at the home of the Labour leader, it was at the Slug and Lettuce pub, a modish hang-out for the stripped pine brigade.

Over a glass of warm white wine to celebrate the launch of *The Marble Kiss*, a novel by Claire Rayner's son Jay, the doyen of champagne Socialists confessed he still didn't really know Tony Blair. "We became very good friends with the Klimcks but we haven't really become friendly with Tony and Cherie," he said. Which is perhaps why Labour's chief fundraiser hasn't invited Blair to any of the

dinner parties he will hold at the party conference next month.

Off the menu

THE TEMPERATURE in Albert Roux's kitchens at La Gavroche is soaring. The masterly French chef has run into bother trying to turn a



listed mansion near his Mayfair eatery into flats.

Westminster Council gave permission but objections were lodged by those who pointed out that his consultant, Councillor Martin Jiggins, was joint chairman of the planning committee. Roux's application has to be reconsidered.

Jiggins is sanguine: "I declared my interest right at the beginning, it was all above board," he says. Sadly for Roux, it's back to the chopping board.

Scrub-U-Like

MORE THAN a thousand potatoes in Yorkshire are being given the kind of facial scrub usually reserved for the rejuvenation of metropolitan ladies. Sponges, towels, cotton wool and soft tissues are being applied to the tubers for the Great Autumn Flower Show in Harrogate next Friday.

Applying the treatment is Leeds spud-grower Joe Maiden. "The skins are very delicate and it's vital

not to bruise or break them," he says. Maiden's wife Betty is over-run. "I find potatoes everywhere throughout the house," she says. "There were four in his sock drawer."

Set pieces

LORD Lichfield's photographer brother-in-law, Sir Geoffrey Shackerley, has taken an extraordinary shine to cutlery, place mats and table decorations. He is mounting what I believe to be the first photographic exhibition of table place settings.

Among them is a stylish layout (pity the poor table-layers) for Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's birthday lunch at Clarence House this year.

"It's a celebration of the English table," explains Shackerley enthusiastically, "to raise money for the SOS charity for cerebral palsy."



A regal birthday lunch

P.H.S



CRIME CRUSADER

Tough on Blair, weak on the causes of Blair

Little has enraged Tory party strategists more than that Labour has overtaken them in public esteem as the party of law and order. By the use of one simple slogan — "tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime" — Tony Blair managed an impressive political rescue when he was shadow Home Secretary. Yesterday John Major began the long fight back, with a speech setting out his Government's achievements on tackling crime.

In the argument over whether the Conservatives should meet Labour on the centre ground or move to the right to create "clear water", this speech was a firm endorsement of the latter strategy. We can expect elements of it to be delivered at next month's party conference, where it will help to rouse reluctant loyalists to their feet. There was much reference to punishment and a boast that 21 new prisons had been opened since 1985. In that respect it was not the sort of speech that Mr Blair would make.

There are certainly votes to be gained here. In the politics of crime, it is usually a mistake to underestimate the anger of British voters. Politicians generally lag behind public opinion in the lengths that they are prepared to go to put criminals behind bars. Yet voters often have a broader sense of what leads their neighbours to crime. Of course the moral conscience must be weak; but people are more likely to succumb to crime if the temptation is also high. That is why Mr Blair's slogan has resonance with voters today: they want politicians to be tough on crime; but they also seem to want acknowledgement that a rich man may more easily resist stealing a car than a poor man can.

Mr Major can reasonably contest that claim. But he does not do so naturally or easily. The trap that Mr Blair has set for the Conservatives on this issue is likely to be the first of many. How to take him on is a question much exercising tacticians at Central Office. He cannot realistically be portrayed as a man of the Left who hides behind moderate words: few would believe that. It would also be dangerous to accuse him of stealing the Tories' policies: that would only reinforce the growing view that Labour is now safe to elect. The Tories have only two grounds for attack: the prospect of higher taxes under Labour, and a reminder

that, however respectable Mr Blair may seem, his party is still not to be trusted, not on the economy, not on constitutional change and not on crime either.

In a Gallup poll this week, Mr Blair's election as leader seemed to have put to rest most concerns that voters had about the party. Significant majorities felt that Labour was the party of the future, not the past; that there were positive reasons to vote Labour; and that it was no longer under the thumb of the trade unions. The only issue that was still negative for the party was tax: 59 per cent agreed that "whatever they say now, taxes would go up a lot under a Labour government".

This is the message the Conservatives should hammer home, hoping that their recent record on tax-raising might, by the time of the next election, be forgiven. And Central Office can almost certainly rely on being given ammunition by the Labour Party itself. Even if the leader puts not a foot wrong — and that is unlikely — his spokesmen and fellow MPs are bound to diverge from his modernising line. Resolutions at Labour Party conferences will prove embarrassing. Labour's support in the polls is certain to fall from its present unrealistic levels. The crucial question is: by how much?

Voters are still very reluctant to applaud the Government for any good news. The scars of recession — felt by many in the South East for the first time in their lives — are proving slow to heal. The same Gallup poll found only 8 per cent of voters prepared to give the Government credit for any future economic recovery. The ghosts of Black Wednesday still haunt Westminster, showing just how important is the matter of trust.

Mr Major cannot rewrite history. But he can try to improve his party's reputation. The Conservatives are seen as somehow unsavoury: only 56 per cent of their supporters would be prepared to admit to their friends that they intended to vote Tory. A crusade against crime will not be enough. If the Prime Minister were to embark upon a public cleansing of government — an end to appointing blatant placemen to public bodies, stricter rules for the taking of money by MPs, some proof that ministers take responsibility for their actions — he might gradually start to benefit from Labour's inevitable slippage from grace.

NO MEAN CITY

The beauty that lies beneath the Glasgow grime

Ever since the 1930s, when Alexander McArthur published his infamous novel about Glasgow razor gangs, "No Mean City", the name of Gorbals has been synonymous with one of Europe's most infamous slums. This image was reinforced as recently as last year when Jeff Torrington's *Swing Hammer, Swing!* won the Whitbread Book of the Year Prize. It is a muscular literary reputation but one which has been seen by the city fathers as a curse as much as a blessing.

The notoriety of the Gorbals brought in its wake redevelopment schemes of overweening ambition but impoverished architectural skill. New slums replaced old. Yesterday the opening of the first Crown Street Regeneration Project home, the first of a tranche of small-scale housing, invites the hope that the Gorbals will get it right this time round.

People once spoke of tenement blocks as things of horror, but at least their fabric was sound and their scale human. The Hutchesontown redevelopment of the Gorbals in the 1950s and 1960s brought 20-storey high-rise blocks, a city of vertical slums. Traffic was concentrated on fast roads which circumnavigated or tore through the heart of the area on streets without people or shops, pubs or churches.

As Simon Jenkins writes on the opposite page about Newcastle, British cities even with their slums are still capable of spectacular revival. Glasgow, a hospitable and open city, has shown remarkable powers of

rejuvenation. The "Glasgow's Miles Better" campaign of the 1980s led to centuries of grime being wiped from its handsome sandstone buildings. The city's designation by the EC as European City of Culture brought streams of curious visitors from the Continent as well as Britain: the setting of the Burrell Collection in Pollock Park, as well as the fine architecture of the merchant city, gave them something to look at.

The city's keen cultural rivalry with Edinburgh continues to ensure that Glasgow is ambitious for its development. As the second city of the empire, Glasgow looked to New York and Chicago for its models: its grid-plan of streets still reflects this influence. Today it rightly sees itself as a European city. Its determined regeneration is an inspiration to English cities whose fortunes have declined from their Industrial Revolution heyday. Beneath its grime it found grandeur. It has even prompted the Treuhänder, the organisation responsible for reviving industry in east Germany, to seek the advice of the Glasgow Development Agency for inspiration.

The regeneration of any city, even one as determined as Glasgow, takes more than a decade to effect. High unemployment and a falling population have still to be tackled. But an urban renewal project designed to produce homes on a human scale is a good start. May the stories from the Gorbals be more hopeful — and no less muscular — in the years to come.

GERRY GOES TO HOLLYWOOD

Kaufman is an able nurse to Britain's ailing film industry

Now an emollient elder statesman after combative years on Labour's front bench, Gerald Kaufman is going to Hollywood next month: not as an aspiring starlet but as chairman of the National Heritage Select Committee on a fact-finding mission. One does not go to Hollywood alone, so he will be accompanied by ten fellow MPs, and the exercise is expected to cost the taxpayer about £25,000.

Much has been said about Mr Kaufman's mission, some of it unimpeachable, most of it uninformed, and all of it killjoy. The fact that the trip is a mouth-watering one is not by itself a reason to dismiss the motives of the travellers. MPs waste time in many American places, most of them in Washington, where there are more bad lessons to learn than good. Hollywood offers more beneficial lessons than does the White House.

The assignment on which the select committee will soon embark is as urgent as it is colourful. Just as there is no film industry in the world as powerful and wealth-producing as Hollywood's, there are few that are as enfeebled as Britain's. It does not require genius to divine that Hollywood can teach Britain a trick or two about matters cinematic and the related business of turning creativity into cash.

Mr Kaufman's credentials for the job are

impeccable: there is evidence that virtually every waking minute of his youth was spent in the gilded darkness of cinema halls. And he is today a fecund film critic, able to muster enthusiasm even for such demotic new films as *The Mask*. His appreciation of *Schindler's List* surpassed in its poignancy all other essays on the subject.

After decades in the dull backwaters of Foreign Affairs, Home Affairs, Environment, Housing and Industry, Mr Kaufman has at last — and joyously — found his niche. There are already five Kaufmans in Hollywood's Filmgoer's Companion: Kaufman, G.B. could well be the sixth. The author of such works as *How to Live Under Labour* and *Inside the Promised Land*, he is due to publish in November a book about the film *Meet Me in St Louis*.

It is a curious choice, and tells us as much about Mr Kaufman as his many years in the Commons have done. Made in technicolour in the middle of the Second World War, the film is a musical fairy-tale about middle America. *Meet Me in St Louis* is not so much back to basics as steeped in them. It harks back to a guileless time and deals with the ups and downs of people who sing songs like "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas". In Mr Kaufman, Britain's film industry clearly has the perfect Florence Nightingale.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Reflections on the aftermath of the IRA ceasefire

From Mr William Comer

Sir, If it weren't so sad it would be laughable that the British Prime Minister should abruptly terminate crucial political talks with an Ulster Unionist leader who treats Mr Major's promises with suspicion (report, September 7).

British prime ministers — including this one — have on numerous occasions lied to (or should I say misled?) Parliament and the nation since, well, probably Mr Walpole's time. Remember Mr Major's promises about taxation, for instance?

More importantly, however, he has effectively excluded a democratically elected representative of Ulster from the current peace process which is only in its most tentative stages.

In supposedly trying to uphold the respectability of his office, and perhaps enhance his personal standing, which he has failed to do frequently in the past, Mr Major has merely offended many extremely frightened Unionists and has damaged the peace process he has worked so hard to initiate.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM COMER,
5 Oakfield Road, N14,
September 8.

From Mr John E. Strafford

Sir, Now that the euphoria of the IRA's ceasefire is beginning to die down let us not forget that the vast majority of the people of Northern Ireland wish to remain part of the United Kingdom. Their great fear is that there is a secret agenda which has as its ultimate goal a united Ireland. This fear would be allayed if Northern Ireland were governed in the same way as other parts of the United Kingdom, thus reinforcing Northern Ireland's role within the United Kingdom.

We have heard much talk of devolution, this being shorthand for the creation of a Northern Ireland assembly, but unless a similar process was instituted for Wales and Scotland such a move would only be interpreted as a stage on the road to a united Ireland.

John Major should be congratulated on the progress towards peace in Northern Ireland. That progress would be enhanced if he now actively

persuaded all the people of Northern Ireland that their best future lies within the United Kingdom as fully integrated and equal citizens. This could best be achieved by developing a strong Conservative Party in Northern Ireland, thus breaking down the sectarian barriers created by the existing political parties in the Province.

Let all Conservatives support Dr Paul Megarity's call (letter, August 30) for the issue to be debated at the Conservative Party conference.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN E. STRAFFORD,
Perama, Fulmer Road,
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire,
September 5.

From Lord Chalfont

Sir, In his emotive plea for the unfettered freedom of terrorists and their sponsors to broadcast propaganda on radio and television ("Let Sinn Féin speak for itself", Media, September 7), Roy Greenfield epitomises the wilful refusal of the libertarian tendency to concede that there might be cogent and respectable reasons for the Government's broadcasting ban.

He states that the ban "forces radio and television to use actors' voice-overs". It does nothing of the kind. The ban was intended to deprive terrorists of a platform from which to publicise their aims at the same time as they were seeking to achieve them by killing and maiming innocent British citizens. The use of actors' voice-overs is the device used by radio and television journalists to provide that platform and thus to circumvent the law and make the Government look foolish.

According to Mr Greenfield, "one journalist" (I wonder who?) argued that the BBC should have defied the ban when it suited them to do so. Evading the law by the use of blatant and silly devices is bad enough; breaking the law when it becomes inconvenient to the crusading journalist is surely another matter.

It can certainly be argued that, in the new circumstances, the reason for the ban has, at least for the time being, largely disappeared and the Government will probably remove it before long.

In the meantime this kind of special

pleading on behalf of the broadcaster does much to reinforce the view of many observers that the ban was a necessary measure and that it should indeed have been much more rigorously enforced.

Yours sincerely,
CHALFONT,
House of Lords,
September 7.

From Mr Richard Rawsthorn

Sir, As Germany, France and the Benelux countries relentlessly pursue European goals which are anathema to Britain it becomes increasingly likely that we shall have to leave the European Union. On the other hand, the Republic of Ireland has no doubts about its continued membership.

This raises the uncomfortable prospect of an independent Britain partly hemmed in to the west by territory of the European Union. If the "peace process" ultimately takes Ulster out of the control of the United Kingdom it will make an unsatisfactory situation worse.

The strategic interests of the United Kingdom demand that it should not surrender control of Ulster unless it obtains absolute and enforceable guarantees in perpetuity of Irish neutrality, preferably with the exclusive right for the United Kingdom to base maritime forces on the west coast of Ireland in times of peace and war.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD RAWSTHORN,
Barcroft, Cliviger,
Nr Burnley, Lancashire,
September 7.

From Dr C. B. Goodhart

Sir, If the ceasefire is to be permanent the IRA will have no further use for its weaponry. So, although it can hardly be expected to surrender it to the British, why should it not be handed over to the Irish Army for safe custody south of the border? That might be an acceptable solution, which Mr Reynolds could suggest to Mr Adams when next they meet.

Yours etc,
C. B. GOODHART,
Gonville & Caius College,
Cambridge.

who wish to study the wildlife in our training areas. Our estate is recognised by many conservation organisations as the finest estate for wildlife in any one ownership.

As for Northumberland National Park, our aim in the Ouseburn training area is to continue to protect the environment in which we train. What we therefore propose, in order to protect the fragile landscape while accommodating the modern weapons that the Army needs if it is to maintain its current first-rate operational capability, is to widen and strengthen some of the existing roads; only a small amount of new track will be required.

All these proposals will be subject to an independent environmental impact assessment which we have commissioned in close collaboration with Northumberland National Park Authority.

The Ministry of Defence's conservation record is excellent and stands comparison with that of any other landowner.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS SOAMES,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building, Whitehall, SW1.

MoD and parkland

From the Minister of State for the Armed Forces

Sir, In his letter (September 1) Mr Robin Pellow, Director of the World Wide Fund for Nature, suggests that the Ministry of Defence's proposals relating to Northumberland National Park are a retrograde step.

I should point out that the MoD owns or leases over 245,000 hectares in the United Kingdom. Much of that land used for training is wild and beautiful and includes many Sites of Special Scientific Interest. I am proud to say that in all of those places nature has been able not only to survive but to flourish. Would that we could say the same about many other parts of the country.

All our activities take account of environmental factors. Commissioning independent environmental studies is a standard stage in most of our developments; we employ full-time conservation staff and encourage thousands of servicemen and civilians in over 200 MoD conservation groups to undertake volunteer work.

We also co-operate in research projects and give access to outside groups

In safe keeping

From the Dean of Wells

Sir, Dr Walsh (letter, September 7) takes me to task for having referred to Wells as "my cathedral". Does he, I wonder, believe that when the Apostle Thomas said "My Lord and my God", he was making a proprietorial statement?

As to the thoughts of the Almighty, they are beyond our understanding, although I nurture the hope that he may smile a gentle smile and say, "thank goodness they are trying to look after my glorious cathedral".

Yours etc,
RICHARD LEWIS,
Dean of Wells,
The Dean's Lodging,
25 The Liberty, Wells, Somerset,
September 8.

Greens and Porritt

From Mr Hugo Charlton

Sir, In reply to Bernard Levin's hysterical attack on Jonathan Porritt and the Green Party (September 6) it should be made clear that Mr Porritt was suspended to ensure consistency in our approach to electoral participation.

He was not expelled (as was wrongly suggested) nor was our action the inevitable result of any rules against supporting rival candidates. Such a rule is usual for most political parties, but not necessarily one upon which the Green Party likes to rely when seeking to curb its freer spirits.

Porritt remains one of the most articulate, informed and authoritative voices of the Green movement, but by eschewing an overtly party political approach his direction may not be entirely congruent with ours.

In fact at the European elections we decided everyone in the country should have a chance to vote green.

Yours faithfully,
HUGO CHARLTON
(Member, Regional Council),
Green Party,
1a Waterlow Road, N19.

who wish to study the wildlife in our training areas. Our estate is recognised by many conservation organisations as the finest estate for wildlife in any one ownership.

As for Northumberland National Park, our aim in the Ouseburn training area is to continue to protect the environment in which we train. What we therefore propose, in order to protect the fragile landscape while accommodating the modern weapons that the Army needs if it is to maintain its current first-rate operational capability, is to widen and strengthen some of the existing roads; only a small amount of new track will be required.

All these proposals will be subject to an independent environmental impact assessment which we have commissioned in close collaboration with Northumberland National Park Authority.

The Ministry of Defence's conservation record is excellent and stands comparison with that of any other landowner.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS SOAMES,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building, Whitehall, SW1.

Scott inquiry

From Mr Mark Dunn

Sir, I wonder whether there are now grounds for the Prime Minister to appoint someone to inquire into the reasons for, and the cost implications of, the delay until the new year in publishing the Scott inquiry's findings on the arms for Iraq affair (report, September 2). As the costs of the inquiry are rising with the passage of time, so is the value of its findings falling.

In fact, one cannot but wonder whether the bill for the inquiry should be paid from the public purse at all, if its published conclusions are to be delayed for much longer.

Yours faithfully,
MARK DUNN,
Widham, Stoughton,
Chichester, West Sussex.

From Mr Peter Cadogan

Sir, Bernard Levin is on to something. Having left the Communist Party after its support for the Soviet invasion of Hungary, I ventured into various exotic political sects because they seemed to be interested in ideas, which was manifestly not the case in any mainstream party. As with Mr Porritt in the Green Party, I was expelled when I questioned the line and the leader. I slowly dawned on me that I was amongst latter-day saints practising updated flagellation. And since sado-masochism is the accredited sickness of our time, this figured.

Yours truly,
PETER CADOGAN,
3 Hinchbrook House,
Greville Road, NW6.

Weekend Money letters, page 31

Letters for publication may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Mandela's vision of the future

From Archbishop Trevor Huddleston, President, Anti-Apartheid Movement

Sir, R. W. Johnson's report, "Fears grow for Mandela's health after Indonesia trip" (September 6), sows misgivings about the new South Africa rather than shedding light on actual developments. Its main thrust is that President Mandela is "at the point of collapse", and that there is no one competent to replace him. In fact both suppositions are untrue.

President Mandela is an amazingly fit 76-year-old. He does have to be very careful about his workload, as more often than not he works every conceivable hour. He is a man with a burning vision of the new South Africa and an understanding of the long road ahead.

Recently he has undergone eye surgery due to problems caused by lime dust from the hard labour he was given on Robben Island during his years in captivity. To suggest that he is ailing because he has had to cancel some appointments is to expect more from him than of any other.

The report undermines confidence in the whole ANC team that brought democracy to South Africa. In particular, it disparages Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and ANC Secretary-General Cyril Ramaphosa, both of whom have been spectacularly successful in forcing the apartheid regime to the negotiating table and in negotiating their way to a peaceful settlement.

We in the Anti-Apartheid Movement have completed the task we set ourselves in 1959 and our AGM on October 29 will be our last. However, a successor organisation will be launched on the same day to promote the new South Africa and the region as a whole.

Yours sincerely,
TREVOR HUDDLESTON,
President, Anti-Apartheid Movement,
13 Mandela Street, NW1,
September 7.

Six and out

From Mr Roger H. Vernon

Sir, House rules for the garden cricket played by my brother and me were not only "out over the fence" (Professor Levy's letter, September 1) but also "out on the border". As this severely restricted sport play we took to playing without a ball from time to time. This enabled an extravagant display of bowling and batting styles without danger of retribution from parents or neighbours. The game developed its own intricate rules and ethos.

It happened that one of our neighbours was F. R. (Freddie) Brown. During an exciting match we spotted Mrs Brown gazing open-mouthed from a bedroom window. That evening the captain of the MCC came round to have explained and join in a few overs of ball-less cricket. Thereafter sticks into the covers were permitted.

Yours truly,
ROGER H. VERNON,
31 Westfield Road,
Edgbaston, Birmingham 15,
September 1.

From Mr John Gorman

Sir, Dr Paul Roberts (letter, September 1) complains that a wicket pitched 40 yards from a house is unacceptably close for modern cricket. Why "modern" cricket? The record distance for a hit, according to *Wisden Cricketers' Almanac*, is 175 yards, made by the Reverend W. Fellows in 1856.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN GORMAN,
Galley Wood House,
Aimes Green, Waltham Abbey, Essex.

Missing links

From Mr Timothy Blake

Sir, Your correspondents (August 17, 22, 26) may be interested to know that the hyphen-and-lower-case method of referring to road and street names still flourishes in our local paper *The West Briton and Royal Cornwall Gazette*, known to many of its readers affectionately as the "Ancient Briton". In its August 25 issue, it lists the paper's numerous local correspondents as living (for instance) at Lemon-quay, Fore-street, West Pentre-road, Elkerkey-close, Water-Jane and Tregony-hill.

Yours faithfully,
T. BLAKE,
13 Middle Rosewin Row,
Truro, Cornwall.

Special offer

From Signor Piero Ottone

Sir, I have read with astonishment Mr Woodrow Wyatt's brilliant article, "Italy puts politics to the test" (September 6), with original remarks and bold statements in praise of Silvio Berlusconi, Italy's new Prime Minister.

In a European Common Market there is free movement of people and money. If there were a free exchange of prime ministers as well, Signor Berlusconi would be yours for the asking.

Yours faithfully,
PIERO OTTONE
(Editor, *Corriere della Sera*, 1972-77),
Via G. Ruffini 15c,
16032 Camogli, Italy,
September 8.

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR BRINLEY THOMAS

Brinley Thomas, CBE, Professor of Economics at University College, Cardiff, 1946-73, died on August 31 aged 88. He was born on January 6, 1906.

IN 1935, when economists were debating whether savings had to equal investment, and monetary theory was clouded by imprecisions born out of a failure to make time explicit in economic thought, a 29-year-old Welshman was telling students at the LSE of how the hitherto unknown Swedish School was emphasising Myrdal's distinction between *ex ante* and *ex post*. It was he who introduced these concepts into British economic thought.

Sitting at his feet was the young G. L. S. Shackle who wrote that he was "of all teachers of economics of my time the one most charged with celestial fire, the one who swept the brain of at least one hearer with a rustling wind of inspiration". A few years later this inspiring teacher was organising the Danish Resistance. In 1954 he established himself as the world authority on the economics of migration. In 1992 he was still (aged 86) inspiring students with his lectures at American universities. His first book was published in 1935; his last in 1993.

Brinley Thomas was born in the small village of Pontrhydyfen, near Port Talbot, where his father had risen to become deputy manager of the mine. Welsh to the core, he ensured that his children should be well educated. Brinley won scholarships to Port Talbot Grammar School and then to the University College of Wales at Aberystwyth, which he entered at the age of 17.

Here he began to read history with subsidiary economics, but dissatisfaction with the history department led him to switch his allegiance. In 1926 he obtained a first in economics, and two years later was awarded his MA with distinction. He had also managed to be active in the Fabian Society and to be president of the UK Students Section of the League of Nations Union.

It was a time of high unemployment in South Wales and his father lost his job. Brinley Thomas decided to help with the family budget, and reluctantly left university to teach evening classes at Pembroke, thereby allowing his brother Edgar to finish his medical



studies and his sisters to pursue their education. Fortunately, his father obtained another post in Porth in the Rhondda Valley, to which he and his family then migrated. Thomas resumed his studies. A fellowship of the University of Wales took him to the London School of Economics which awarded him a PhD in 1931. By-products of his research and family experience were three papers on the migration of labour — a topic that was to be a life-time interest.

He remained at the LSE as research assistant. A scholarship took him to Berlin, where he spent nine months studying the financial and economic crises of Germany. This led to his writing the section on Germany in Hugh Dalton's influential *Unbalanced Budgets: A Study of Financial Crises in Fifteen Countries* (1934). It also gave him an insight into the rise of Nazi Germany. With a strong impish streak he delighted in teasing the authoritarian Nazis and on one occasion Dalton had to dash to Germany to keep him out of prison.

Next he visited Sweden for nine months. Having already learnt the foreign languages of English and German, he now took on Swedish, with typical determination and thoroughness. His mastery of the language helped him to become an authority on the important ideas of the Swedish economists Knut Wicksell and Gustav Cassel, and to impress upon the Swedes the achievements of the Welsh economists. Thomas's first book, *Monetary Policy and Growth: A Study of Swedish Experience* (1936) displayed an understanding of monetary economics that was rare for the time, but its great contribution was the publicity it gave to the thinking of the Swedish school of economists.

In 1939 he was awarded a Leverhulme Scholarship to do a survey of migration trends in the British Empire. No sooner had he reached Canada than war broke out. He reported to the British authorities and was quickly attached to the War Trade Department of the British Embassy in then neutral Washington. His work was secret, incisive and demanding of his knowledge of German.

When the United States entered the war he was flown back to England in a bomb-laden plane to assist Dalton who was directing the Political Warfare Executive. His work involved a great deal of undercover contact with the countries of northern Europe, where his linguistic abilities stood him in good stead. Later, when he visited liberated Denmark to meet and thank the people whom he had known only by code names, he was thrilled to be temporarily dressed in the uniform of a full colonel.

With the war over he returned to the LSE, which he left almost immediately to fill the chair of Economics and Political Science at the largest Welsh university college, in Cardiff. He changed its title to "Economics and Social Sciences". His early interest in history and the migration of miners, his purposive wanderings in Europe, and his wide critical reading of the classical economists were all brought together when he accepted an assignment from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research to write his magnum opus, *Migration and Economic Growth: A Study of Great Britain and the Atlantic Economy* (Cambridge University Press, 1954, second edition 1973). This important work displayed Thomas's hallmark of thoroughness, industry, originality, scholarship and

academic integrity. Many other books and papers followed, including his article on migration in the 1970 edition of *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. In 1972, a year before his "retirement", his book *Migration and Urban Development: A Reappraisal of British and American Long Cycles* was published by Methuen.

His department had given birth to departments of accountancy, law, social science and personnel management, all of them created through his own energy, foresight and persistence. Another of his creations was the university's Manpower Research Unit of which he became director immediately after retirement.

At the same time he developed further his strong links with American and Canadian universities and was still teaching economics at Berkeley, California, when he was in his mid-eighties.

Testimony to the duration of his intellectual activity is that his last book, *The Industrial Revolution and the Atlantic Economy* was published only last year, by Routledge, the publisher of his first book 58 years earlier.

He was, above all, a Welshman and a scholar. His first published work was "The Organisation of Religion in Wales" which appeared in *The Welsh Outlook* in 1929. Throughout his life he kept up a stream of articles and lectures on Welsh affairs, including the editing (and substantial rewriting) of a book on the Welsh economy, and a series of articles in which he challenged the orthodox view enshrined in Welsh history textbooks that rapid industrialisation in the second half of the 19th century had weakened the Welsh language. One of his last public lectures was delivered in his own beloved tongue.

He was an active member of many international and UK committees, and for a few years held a part-time government appointment as a member of the National Assistance Board. He also sat on many Welsh committees. From 1968 to 1971 he was chairman of the Welsh Council. He was appointed OBE in 1955 and advanced to CBE in 1973, the same year that he was elected a Fellow of the British Academy.

He is survived by his wife Cynthia and a daughter.

JULIA OSVATH

Julia Osvath, Hungarian soprano, died in Budapest on August 20 aged 86. She was born on February 15, 1908.

THERE is no doubt that, had history taken a different course, Julia Osvath would have been a more familiar name to opera lovers in the West. She was one of the more talented Hungarian sopranos of this century.

Four years into her professional career with the Budapest Opera, however, the Second World War, and subsequently the Cold War, left Hungary in a peculiarly isolated position from a musical standpoint. As a result Osvath's international reputation, though to materialise, though to several generations of Hungarian musicians she remained an admired interpreter of Mozart.

Julia Osvath was born in a suburb of Budapest and initially began a career as a courtesier while singing in amateur choirs, such as the Palestrina Korus and the choir of St. Mathias Church. She was lodging at the time in the home of a couple with a baby. The child went on to become one of Hungary's most respected music critics, Janos Breuer, who documented Osvath's career in Hungarian newspapers until the time of her death.

At the age of 25 Osvath entered the Liszt Academy of Music where she studied with, among others, Jozsef Sik. However, she never really needed a coach, thanks to her remarkable voice and natural talent. Two years later she was invited to join the Budapest Opera.

Unfortunately for international audiences, Osvath made only one trip, in 1937, to the West. At the invitation of Arturo Toscanini she sang the Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute* as part of a star-studded cast in Salzburg (a poor quality recording of the performance still exists). This was the occasion when the young Georg Solti turned up in Salzburg, uninvited and with only a letter of introduction to help him.

The future maestro found that a flu epidemic was in full swing and at an hour's notice his career was launched as he took up the position of répétiteur for Osvath, Toscanini and the remainder of the cast which included such legendary singers as Willi Domgraf-Fassbänder and Helge Roswaenge.

Osvath was to make only two other visits outside Hungary — to Moscow and Sofia — though within her homeland, her reputation remained steady. She particularly shone as the Comtesse in *The Marriage of Figaro*, as Tabana in *Eugene Onegin*, and as the



Marschallin in *Der Rosenkavalier*. She was a loyal supporter of Hungarian music, and received critical acclaim within Hungary for her interpretation of the heroine, Melinda, in Ferenc Erkel's opera *Bank Ban*. Off-stage she was as famous for her hysterical prima donna behaviour as she was on-stage for the sheer beauty of her voice.

Retirement came in 1969 when controlling the upper notes of her uncoached voice became difficult, though she remained involved with, and an active supporter of, the opera company which had nurtured her. In her final years, surrounded by her cats and dogs in her large house in Budapest, she turned her hand to painting.

She was divorced in the 1950s and leaves no children.

EDWARD SPEELMAN

Edward Speelman, art dealer, died in Lansanne, Switzerland, on August 29 aged 84. He was born on May 16, 1910.

EDWARD SPEELMAN was one of the last of the London art dealers who learnt their trade in the 1930s. His father and his brother were both in the antiques trade and Eddie, as he was known, started his career with Leys in Bond Street. He was a fluent linguist and this led to an association with Nathan Katz, a successful Dutch dealer who spoke no English.

Katz used Speelman as an assistant on his deals in England and became one of his two great mentors. The other was Colin Agnew, with whom Speelman had the good fortune to spend and buy a major German Renaissance portrait at a country sale just before the Second World War. He profits from this transaction enabled Speelman to visit



America as a buyer — an unusual situation for a London dealer in the 1930s.

Working in intelligence during the war, Speelman's role as liaison officer between the British and Dutch authorities took him through the Normandy campaign to the liberation of Brussels and of The Hague where he was personally responsible for the arrest

of the Reich Commissioner for the Netherlands, Arthur Seyss-Inquart. For his war services he was mentioned in dispatches and made a Knight of the Order of Orange Nassau.

While waiting to be demobilised he rode on the beach at Scheveningen, then still strewn with mines. He had successes entering hiring horses in local races, and when he returned to England, carried on as a racehorse owner. His greatest moment came when the three-year-old Klairon won the French 2000 Guineas in the late 1950s.

Speelman's closest friend after the war was Claude Partridge. Acting often with Partridge and with Agnew, Speelman became a major player in the London art world, although he never expanded his own premises beyond the two small rooms on the third floor of a building in Piccadilly. Londoners owe him a particular debt for the collection of Dutch pictures now owned by, and on show at, the Mansion House which he formed for Lord Samuel. He also became the first person to bid by telephone on London at an auction in New York when he acquired Frans Hals's *Lute Player* at the Cintas sale in 1963 on Samuel's behalf.

Speelman was always prepared to help younger colleagues, and his generosity took a practical form in his endowment at Wolfson College, Cambridge, of a four-year postgraduate fellowship for the study of the art of The Netherlands. Although he retired to live in France and Switzerland he rarely missed an important sale or exhibition in London or New York.

Speelman had been a fiercely competitive squash player in his youth, and continued to watch boxing and play golf at 84. He proudly formed a round at the formidable course at Valderama.

He is survived by his wife Sally and a son.

MICHAEL POWERS

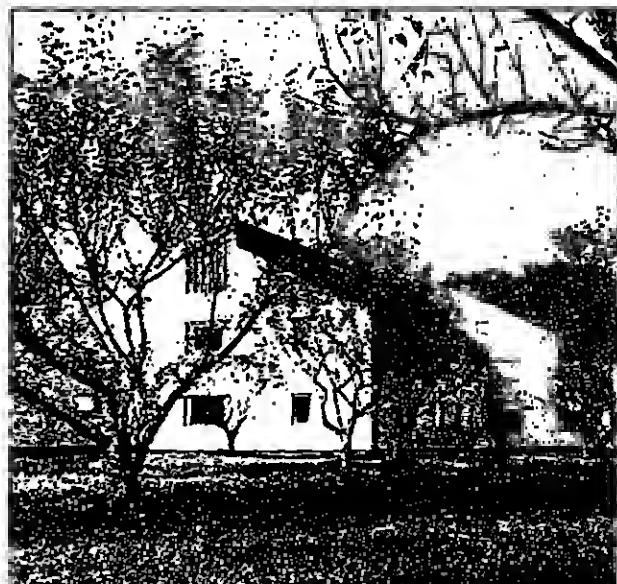
Michael Powers, architect, died on August 24 aged 79. He was born on May 19, 1915.

UNTIL 1934 the curriculum and teaching methods at the Architectural Association's School were, like those of many similar institutions, traditionally based. Students were preoccupied with learning about ancient Greek architecture, achieving perfectly executed watercolour washes and generally following guidelines imposed by *Beaux Arts* disciplines of symmetry. It was a period of dying academicism that produced the many drab and characterless examples of neo-Georgian facadism still to be found in the banks and town halls of the day.

Michael Powers was one of a group of 11 students who had arrived at the AA the year before and who, backed up by a young teacher named Robert Furneaux Jordan (after the war Principal of the school), changed all that. They had got hold of the books on Le Corbusier and Frank Lloyd Wright. With Walter Gropius of Bauhaus fame in London, and Berthold Lubetkin's Penguin Pool at the Zoo (and his Highpoint block of flats in Highgate hitting the architectural headlines), the student revolution was completed by the time Powers qualified in 1938.

Michael Anthony Robelou Powers was born in New York, the only son of an Irish-American who was in the paper trade, and who came to England in 1919. The young Powers was educated at Harrow where he came under the influence of a teacher who was particularly concerned with art. It may have been this which drew him to architecture; if he had not taken that up, he said, he might have gone into antiquities.

Those who were fortunate



Powers's centre for spastic children at Meldreth

enough to join the AA School at this time were so excited and inspired by the freedom to think for themselves that they felt already launched as architects. While the dramatic changes affected students in different ways, the group to which Powers belonged, and of which prominent members were Michael Grice and the late Sir Anthony Cox, was quite clear about the approach to follow. This was that the design of a building should be the product of the group; that the rationality of Gropius and that the work produced should not appear to be the personal effort of one particular architect so that the credit for the design should remain anonymous.

This plan of action set the seal on the group's arrangements. When they left the AA and went to work for different architects, all 11 members rented a basement in Russell Square where they met in the

evening. They called themselves the Architects Co-operative Partnership and hoped gradually to build up a practice. With the war, this was abandoned, but Powers, who had retained his American nationality and was not therefore called up, went to work for Lord Forrester at Enfield Cables, a job which led directly to the postwar commission to design a factory at Brimsdown in South Wales for Brimsdown Rubber, a subsidiary of Enfield Cables.

Forrester, who saw this building as a way of regenerating the Welsh valleys, obtained a government grant for the entire cost of construction, and with this the Architects Co-partnership (as the group now called the practice) was founded. At the same time it established the architectural reputation of the group.

This was in 1946. With the completion of this huge building, much of which was, in the early stages, designed by Powers, the ACP was officially relaunched at its Gordon Square office (let to it by Forrester) in 1951. However, the members of the partnership, soon reduced to eight, soon realised that buildings are not designed by groups but have to be the result of the inspiration of an individual.

In consequence, the more normal plan was followed whereby a job brought in by a member became his to design, and one of the first of Powers's jobs — and, incidentally, the first large work of modern architecture in Oxford — was his extension to St John's College of sets of rooms in a sequence of interlocking octagonal structures. Because it was the first of its kind, and made such a striking break with traditional additions to the university, his building was published everywhere in Oxford newspapers and architectural magazines.

Powers went on to do numerous buildings in the educational sphere — for Hertfordshire County Council, architecturally one of the most progressive in the country; for Bryanston School, where he designed a study block and a new music school; a chapel at the School of Signals (also at Blandford) and a very fine work; Wolfson Court, Trinity College, Cambridge; a very large extension to Durham University of the Dunsen House. Students Union, a vigorous, sculptural work in concrete, where he was also much involved with Ove Arup's design for a footbridge (generally acknowledged to be the engineer's best in this genre).

But perhaps it was Powers's involvement with the spastics that led to his most achieved piece of architecture. This was the remarkable centre for spastic children at Meldreth in Cambridgeshire.

Michael Powers is survived by his wife and son.

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THE NORTH POLE. THE TWO EXPLORERS.

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT. NEW YORK, SEPT. 9. The "Polar War" as it is termed here, is a conflict, says the *New York World*, which will not only shake the scientific world, but will elicit everywhere the keenest popular interest.

An atmosphere thick with charges and countercharges is not favourable to the controversy, and it is regrettable that the rivalry between the two explorers has already spread to the newspapers here as well as in London. Today the *New York Times* flatly declares that Commander Peary "has been the first to reach the long-sought Pole," while the *New York Herald* remains faithful to Dr. Cook.

However, it must be confessed that the tide seems to be setting against the latter: it must also be confessed that Dr. Cook's refusal to enter into any controversy with Commander Peary and his intention to send an expedition to find the two Eskimos who are said to have accompanied him to the Pole is highly commendable, although in the end the testimony of the natives is unlikely to weigh heavily against scientific data. In contrast to the direct lie given to Commander Peary by Mr. Ogborn, secretary of the Arctic Club of America, he says:—

As soon as he sets foot in New York, Mr. Bradley,

ON THIS DAY

September 10 1909

ON THIS DAY

The discovery of the North Pole set off a bitter controversy. Robert Peary announced that he had reached it on April 6 1909. A prior claim had been made by his former colleague, Dr. Frederick Cook. He had many supporters, but scientific investigations verified Peary's accounts and in 1911 the US Congress recognised his claim.

Peary, and others who make public affidavits and

facts which will stamp Commander Peary as the

moon chosen for the country has ever produced.

I have an affidavit stating that Commander Peary

read it, and then said it up again.

In this connection the *New York Times* points

out that Mr. Harry Whitney, with whom Dr.

Cook is reported to have left his documentary

papers, is now manfully going off to North

Greenland to hunt.

President Taft has sent his congratulations to

Commander Peary, expressing the hope that

"your observations will contribute substantially

to scientific knowledge." A few days ago he sent

his congratulations to Dr. Cook. He, presumably,

believes that both men reached the Pole. This is a

charitable attitude to assume. To pronounce

judgment now is impossible and unjust, and a

little charity is just what is needed if the

controversy, already deplorable, is not to become

degrading to all concerned. At present the case is

being tried by the newspapers in the absence of

one of the disputants and of all evidence, legal or

scientific. As the *Evening Post* remarks to-

night:—

The most dramatic achievement in the scientific

annals of the age is being written down in

Greenland. We cannot say that the controversy

Peary entirely blames. It is the painfully won

crown of his work were really in danger of

being snatched from him by an impostor, the

temper of his challenge to Dr. Cook might be

excused, but truth in his own cause and in the

ultimate triumph of truth should have lent him

patience.

Commander Peary has telegraphed as follows

to President Taft:—

"I have the honour to place the North Pole at

your disposal."

Mr. Taft replied:—

"Thank you for your interesting and generous

offer. I do not know exactly what I could do with

it. I congratulate you sincerely on having

achieved, after the greatest effort, the object of



PROFILE 23
Partners in power
who are feared
in legal circles



ANTHONY HARRIS 25
The first of a
new series for
market-watchers



SPORT 34-40
Steve Redgrave:
a man obsessed
with winning

WEEKEND
SPORTING
FIXTURES
Page 35

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10 1994

Engineers cut jobs as orders dry up

By Ross Tizman, Industrial Correspondent

A SPATE of job losses in heavy engineering provided fresh evidence yesterday of industry's uphill struggle to achieve an export-led recovery.

Almost 800 impending redundancies were announced in Scotland and northern England as companies cut back after failing to replenish order books. The loss of a further 550 jobs at the Swan Hunter shipyard on Tyneside - also loomed closer after efforts to keep the yard's design team together collapsed.

But City analysts were less foreboding. A fresh fall in the unemployment total next Wednesday as growth in part-time service sector jobs continues to reduce the number of benefit claimants.

Parsons Power Generation Systems, at Newcastle upon Tyne, blamed its failure to win new overseas power station contracts for some 600 job losses. The Rolls-Royce subsidiary, which makes steam turbines and associated equipment, is to shed 360 of its Newcastle employees over the next few months, with another

40 jobs going elsewhere in the United Kingdom. In addition, the company is to shed 200 temporary employees.

Parsons said work on two power stations, for Singapore and India, had reached maturity and that despite strenuous efforts, no new orders had been won to maintain the workforce at its present strength of 2,900. A spokesman said the company had invested heavily to improve its products and productivity, but was being hard-pressed by rivals in continental Europe, the US and Japan.

Narrow Shipbuilders, the CEC Marston warship yard on Clydeside, also blamed a shortage of new orders for plans to make 93 design office staff redundant. Although the company is recruiting 300 manufacturing workers, Murray Easton, the managing director, said design work on two frigates for the Malaysian navy was winding down.

Almost 100 ship designers at the Swan Hunter warship yard on Tyneside are expected to be made redundant next week after the collapse of talks intended to secure their future. Sofica/CMN, the French group seeking to buy the yard's Hebburn dry dock, said it had decided against taking over responsibility for their wages.

The decision provoked an angry reaction from Gordon Horsfield, one of the joint administrative receivers to the yard. He said the receivers had considered three proposals from Sofica/CMN in as many weeks and each had failed to come to fruition.

"The frustration felt by the design team, and the bitterness of the whole Swan Hunter workforce, can only be imagined," he said. A new round of redundancies at the yard, where 660 are still employed, was likely to be announced early next week.

However, Fred Henderson, chairman of CMN Support Services, said: "We are as disappointed and frustrated as anyone can be that our earlier proposals have not succeeded."

It now hopes to acquire the Hebburn dock with a view to building warships there later if it can secure orders.



Art world: Sir Anthony Tennant, left, and Christopher Davidge, chief executive, reported broad-based growth in sales at Christies International

Savoy finds Shepard's successor

THE Savoy Group has found its preferred successor, to Giles Shepard, who is expected to be replaced as managing director shortly.

Ramon Pajares, regional vice-president of Canadian-owned Four Seasons Hotels in Europe, has been approached for the job (Martin Walker writes).

The battle at the top of the Savoy, which has long resisted an attempt by Forte, its biggest shareholder, to take control, will intensify next week when the board meets on Tuesday before interim figures for the next day. A statement on Mr Shepard's future could come before then.

Mr Pajares is general manager of the Four Seasons, the Canadian group's London flagship, formerly the Inn on the Park. Contacted in Toronto last night, where he is attending a business conference, he confirmed the Savoy approach.

"It's something one would have to think very carefully about," he said. "It's a tremendous challenge."

Mr Shepard looks set to lose his £150,000-a-year job after falling out with Sir Michael Richardson, a powerful non-executive director, over an unauthorised statement blaming the latter for press leaks about the wrangling over the Savoy's future.

Cousin Billy named heir-apparent at Ford

FROM SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH IN NEW YORK

THE Ford Motor Company came closer to handing over the burning torch to a new generation yesterday with the announcement that William Clay "Billy" Ford Jr is to take over a key financial post.

From his new position as chairman of the powerful board finance committee, Billy Ford is well-placed to head the company in the future. But some analysts say the great-grandson of Henry Ford will still have to contend with Edsel Ford II, another great-grandson of the automotive legend, who is head of the Ford Motor Credit Company.

Both cousins avoided making claims on the future after Alex Trotman, the Briton who is currently the company's chairman, said Billy would replace his father as committee chief. Billy, 37, and Edsel, 45, have made careers at the company, working in a variety of positions, and both have international experience.

Mr Trotman insisted that the board had considered Edsel among other candidates before deciding on Billy. Edsel downplayed the competition between him and his cousin, saying he thought it was "great for Billy".

"If asked, I probably would have turned it down, because I want to stay in operations. It worked out exactly how we wanted it to," he said.

Observers said they thought both Fords had now earned their corporate stripes, and would work hard to impress the members of the board.

"I think you're going to see both of them continue to make moves," said David Cole, director of the University of Michigan's Office for the Study of Automotive Transportation. "Whether they end up at the top is going to depend on their continued performance. Outstanding leadership is required."

It helps both men that the Ford family still controls about 40 per cent of the company's voting shares. Henry Ford II, grandson of the company founder, was chief executive officer from 1945 until 1979. The company went public in 1956. Henry Ford II retired as chairman in 1980 and chaired the finance committee until he died in 1987. Chief executives have been non-family since 1979.

Analysts and traders say the appointment will not frighten investors. David Healy, an automobile industry specialist at SG Warburg, the securities house, in New York, said he expected a positive reaction from Wall Street: "As a practical matter, you won't see much

Christie's lot is happier at half time

SALES of art collections of Barbara Streisand and Viscountess Rothermere helped boost auction sales at Christies International by 19 per cent in the six months to June 30 (Sarah Bagnall writes). They rose to £390 million. Sales of furniture, Oriental art, Old Masters, decorative art, books and wine, all recorded sales up by more than 25 per cent.

Sir Anthony Tennant, chairman, said: "Encouragingly, this growth was broad-based, with increases in all the main salesrooms and in most categories."

Pre-tax profits rose 15 per cent to £8.1 million and the interim dividend was held at 0.5p, paid out of earnings of 2.84p, up from 2.51p.

Inflation fears hit dollar and bonds

By Colin Nibbrough

FRESH evidence of inflationary pressure, triggered by the worse-than-expected US wholesale price figures, prompted a slump in bond and equity markets both sides of the Atlantic yesterday and triggered renewed dollar weakness.

Wall Street opened sharply lower as investors fled, a movement matched in Europe. In the first hour of trading, the Dow Jones industrial average lost 31.29 points to 3,877.17.

In London, the FTSE-100 closed 40.7 down at 3,139.3 and the long gilt future for December finished nearly 2 points lower at 99 1/2. The pound gained half a cent against the falling dollar to close in London at \$1.5517. Against the mark, the US currency ended more than a penny lower. Sterling fell almost 2 pence to DM2.396.

The data that unsettled the markets were August US wholesale prices, which showed a surge of 0.6 per cent, the biggest monthly jump in almost four years, after an 0.5 per cent rise in July. The August increase in the producer price index was broad-based and led by higher prices for food, gasoline, cars and tobacco.

Stock markets, page 24

George Walker leaves court in tears

By Our City Staff

GEORGE Walker, the former head of Brent Walker, rushed from court in tears yesterday, after telling a jury that he had ploughed every penny his family possessed into his ailing leisure empire.

He said the rescue bid for Brent Walker almost four years ago was prompted by a clean bill of legal health following a Serious Fraud Office investigation into the group's film division.

Mr Walker told Southwark Crown Court that after the SFO inquiry - followed months later by another which led to the charges he currently faces - he and family members felt they had the green light to put in £30 million of their own money towards the rescue bid.

Further substantial sums, including £5 million from Louisa, came from business contacts and friends as the group edged towards the £100 million figure required to qualify for further bank support. "I got to £95 million and the banks said they would cough up the rest," Mr Walker told the court. The court rose while Mr Walker, in tears, regained his composure.

He is accused of stealing £17 million from his former company during a six-year fraud, laundering it abroad, and then returning it to the company as profit in a bid to attract investors.

The 65-year-old former chairman and chief executive of Brent Walker, and Wilfred Aquilina, 41, the group's former finance director, deny two joint charges of false accounting, one of theft, and one of conspiracy to falsify accounts. Mr Walker is alone accused of three theft charges. Mr Aquilina faces one charge of false accounting.

Mr Walker, giving evidence for the fifth day, said that after the group's takeover of the William Hill betting shop chain in 1989, Brent Walker found itself short of funds. Banks told it that, if it was to be supported, Mr Walker "personally" would have to raise £100 million.

The trial was adjourned until Monday.

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Bank of Ireland Mortgages

Union Carbide quits India decade after Bhopal

By Colin Nibbrough, World Trade Correspondent

UNION Carbide, the American group whose plant at Bhopal in India caused the world's worst chemical disaster, has quit the country after being forced to sell its Indian assets for almost £60 million to a former subsidiary of Britain's McLeod Russell group.

A gas leak at the Union Carbide plant on December 3, 1984, killed more than 3,000 people and left thousands more permanently disabled. The accident became a landmark legal case to establish liability for hazardous industries located in developing countries.

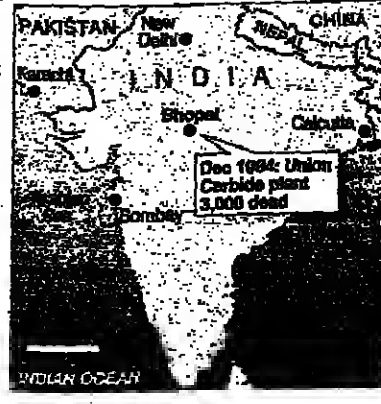
Sir Ian Percival, trustee of the Bhopal Hospital Trust and the court-appointed receiver for bids for Union Carbide's assets in India, said yesterday that McLeod Russell India, sold off by its British parent in 1987, had agreed to buy Union Carbide's 59.9 per cent holding in its Indian subsidiary.

The stake went to the highest bidder in a closed auction ordered by the Indian Supreme Court as part of the punishment meted out to Union Carbide for its part in the disaster. The hospital trust has received almost £4

million from Union Carbide's former Indian unit, but needs a further £9.5 million to build and run its hospital.

After four years of legal wrangling, the Indian state courts in 1988 ordered Union Carbide to pay £51.5 million to the Government towards compensation for the victims.

The Supreme Court set final compensation at \$470 million. Subsequently, a lower court in Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh state, had Union Carbide's Indian assets seized for sale to the highest bidder.



Major's utility tea party

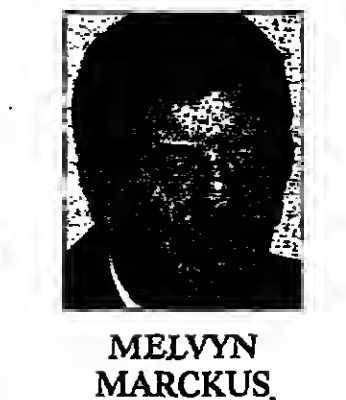
Well fancy that. For the best part of a year I have scribbled away about the strange manner in which UK utilities are regulated. And lo and behold, we learn, via *The Sunday Times*, that John Major has called for a meeting of the Cabinet's economic sub-committee to discuss government policy towards privatised utilities and, yes, the regulators.

Far be it for me to claim any credit for this little tête à tête, but, who knows, a few vignettes may have fallen other than on stony ground. Word has it that the principal denizen of Number 10 is more than a little perturbed by the antics of certain privatised enterprises, particularly those in the electricity sector presided over by Stephen Littlechild, Director General of Ofwat. Critics of Littlechild claim that he is the victim of what Americans describe as "regulatory capture": a description which translates into the regulator's nose being led by industry.

Littlechild's review of price con-

trols met with acclaim from the RECs. Ofwat's poodle consumer association and market-makers. That said, such acclaim was not forthcoming from the media, independent consumer associations or political circles. Such is the level of concern at Number 10 that rumour swirls that Littlechild's controversial review might actually be reviewed. There is also the sale of Gridco to ponder. How, one wonders, does HMG feel about the prospect of the RECs selling the Grid for a not dissimilar sum to that which HMG accepted on the taxpayer's behalf when it sold the RECs? Just for good measure, executives of the RECs are perceived to be lining their pockets at the expense of the consumer whose reward comes in the shape of VAT increases. Other than that, Littlechild and the electricity sector are in pretty good odour.

But I digress. The focus of the meeting will, inevitably, be on gas. What the Government must (in theory) decide is whether to maintain the schedule for the introduction of domestic market competition in 1996: ahead of an election.



MELVYN MARCKUS

In the left corner: Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade who, by all accounts, has been asked to present a paper on regulation and express his views on whether provisions for a new Gas Act should be included in the Queen's Speech. In the extreme right corner: Michael Portillo, Employment Secretary and former pen friend of Heseltine. Sitting alongside Portillo will be John Redwood, Welsh Secretary. Portillo, incidentally, moved the competition amendment to the 1986 Gas Act. Redwood was at the DIT with Peter Lilley during the run-up to the last election when Sir James McKinnon, former Director General of Ofgas, realised he had overestimated the validity of British Gas's prospects. Floating around, attempting to avoid corners, will be Chancellor Kenneth Clarke and Michael Howard, Home Secretary. This little tea party was originally arranged for

competition. Such an accusation arguably overstates British Gas's ability to co-ordinate such a campaign. More blatantly, it ignores the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's declaration that "British Gas's logical response to competition would be to rebalance its tariffs to reflect the structure of its costs and restore its profits."

Oh to be a fly on the wall! Will pragmatism or ideology win out? Will decisions be made on the basis of winning this election or the following one?

Look at it this way: Pragmatism calls for procrastination. Opt out of the Queen's Speech and stealthily reschedule the introduction of domestic market competition to 1998 when, conveniently, the election has passed. Spiralling water charges are such a sore issue in the West Country that even if the rest of the UK benefited, cost-reflective (namely higher) gas prices could well shade the West Country any colour on the palette other than blue.

Confused ignorance: This

abounds not only in areas of the Cabinet but also on the backbenches. There is no known cure. The cry is break up British Gas quickly so that competition will produce lower prices before an election. Alas, if the MMC and the DIT agreed on anything it was that break-up and the introduction of domestic competition could not take place at the same time: the former favouring break up first, the latter competition. In the event, rebalancing would still result in "losers."

Cynicism: Those most vulnerable to higher prices tend to vote Labour or Liberal Democrat. The danger is that retired Conservatives in the likes of Bournemouth and Torbay might revolt.

Extreme cynicism: This dictates tilting the playing field to such an extent that British Gas is prevented from rebalancing its charges with competitors able to guarantee lower prices. This would, of course, contradict the Coal White Paper commitment to eliminating cross-subsidies in energy markets.

Such a U-turn could be papered over but two million Slids, faced with a dividend cut, might perceive the cracks.

Ideology: This calls for the continued imposition of choice, despite the fact that the ultimate choice will be enjoyed by new entrants able to cherry pick the best customers while leaving British Gas a reluctant monopolist of the least profitable consumers.

It is the clash in ideology between the old and the new Conservative Party, that is fascinating. The former, based on Burkean patronage, pragmatism and prescription, can tolerate a mixed market and regulated monopoly. To converts of the "Austrian" breed of economic theory, the state and monopoly are anathema. Regulation of the energy sector is dominated by Austrian ideology. Godfather of the regulators being Michael Beesley whose star pupil many years ago was Professor Littlechild.

More on the Austrians next week.

Sparkle fades at Asprey by £89m

By Philip Pangalos

MORE than a third of the market value of Asprey was wiped out yesterday as shares in the exclusive jewellery, antiques and fine art group plummeted 110p to 200p after the company gave warning of "very disappointing trading" in the current year.

The prestigious jeweller, whose well-heeled worldwide customers include the wealthy of the Middle East, Far East and South America, lost its sparkle after saying that half-year profits will be only marginal and significantly below market forecasts.

The shares were marked sharply lower, touching a low of 178p, before closing at 200p in a relatively thin volume of 462,680 shares traded. But even this recovery left Asprey with a diminished market value of £159.6 million at the close — a huge loss of £88.7 million on the previous day.

The Asprey business has historically enjoyed a significant level of high value export sales, with some foreign governments sometimes spending £5 million on gift packs for the likes of royal visitors. Naim Attallah, Asprey's chief executive, said: "In the last six months, governments and big punters who normally came and graced us with their custom did not come."

Mr Attallah added: "Even the wealthy are haggling. In the past, the wealthy did not argue about the price, now they want value for money. In the recession, everybody is feeling the draught."

US mining losses drag Costain into the red

By Martin Waller, Deputy City Editor

A DISASTROUS trading performance at its American coal operations, caused by bad weather, sent Costain Group, the builder and engineer, plunging into the red in the first half of 1994. The company has announced the sale of these coal fields.

Costain shares fell 3p to 24½p on news of pre-tax losses that totalled £14.0 million. Last time, the company made profits of £68.1 million, but this included a £68.5 million one-off profit from the much-delayed sale of its Australian coal business to Hanson.

At the operating level, Costain saw a £7.9 million profit last time from continuing operations swinging into an £8 million loss. Earnings per share of 28.5p last time were replaced by a 3.0p loss.

There is no dividend — Costain last paid out to shareholders in 1991 and has indicated there is no prospect of a return to the dividend list until 1995, at the earliest.

Alan Lovell, the finance director, admitted that the results from the US coal side were very disappointing. At the operating level, losses of £9.8 million replaced profits of £5 million last time.

Residential and commercial property slightly improved,

£1.1 million contrasting with £1.6 million, but the contribution from engineering and construction diminished from £6.7 million to £4.6 million.

In the US, problems due to appalling weather already reported to shareholders in May grew thereafter. Total US production fell by 400,000 tonnes year-on-year to 7 million tonnes. As a result, Costain has appointed a new head of Costain America. Peter Hill is replacing Thomas Parker, who is receiving an undisclosed pay-off in accordance with his contract, but "not at a level that will attract any attention", Mr Lovell said.

The group has attracted unofficial approaches from half a dozen prospective purchasers. "We're fairly confident there will be a decent level of interest," he added.

Costain is unlikely to achieve a price in line with the company's book value of \$300 million, which will mean further one-off losses to come next year once the deal has been completed, probably in the first quarter of 1995.

But the sale will easily clear debt currently standing at £63 million, and Costain is thought to be looking for a figure in excess of £150 million for the business.



Seeing the future: Jon Waldern, above, chief executive of Virtuality Group, sees his company, that makes hardware and software for virtual reality computer entertainment, in a strong position to exploit the leading position it has already achieved in its field. Increased expenditure on product development pushed Virtuality to a pre-tax loss of £695,000 in the six months to June 30, against a £65,000 profit last time, on turnover of £4.12 million (£2.44 million). There is no dividend, though the company expects to report a profitable outcome for the 1995 financial year.

TSB puts life sales employees on salary

By Sara McConnell

TSB is to pay its life assurance sales staff a salary rather than commission as part of a shake-up of its banking and insurance selling operations.

Many companies are changing from commission-only payment to salaries before salesmen have to disclose commission at the start of next year. They fear that customers will be put off by disclosure of large up-front commissions for selling life and pensions policies.

From November 1, TSB's banking and insurance operations will be merged. Life assurance sales staff will be based in branches and report to the manager, instead of working for TSB's life assurance arm. They will give advice on deposit accounts, savings, loans and other bank products as well as life assurance.

Branches will be set targets by TSB's head office and those that meet them will get a team bonus of up to 15 per cent on top of their salary. Individuals can also get bonuses of up to 35 per cent, but TSB emphasised that would be for overall performance and not directly linked to specific product sales targets.

Branch managers will be expected to pass all three stages of the Insurance Industry's professional exam, the Financial Planning Certificate, during the next 12 months. Their sales staff will be divided into four grades and will all be salaried.

GRE staff balloted on strike action

By Sarah Bagnall

GUARDIAN Royal Exchange faces the threat of industrial action by 4,300 staff — 70 per cent of its workforce — over the insurer's latest pay offer.

Bifu, the banking, insurance and finance union, is balloting members on a series of one-day strikes. It said that in a consultative ballot of its members — in which 89 per cent voted — 77 per cent elected to reject the offer.

The insurer has offered a 4.8 per cent pay rise, distributed on a performance basis. Bifu wants a further 2.75 per cent paid across the board to reflect the rising costs of living.

Alan Scrimgeour, assistant secretary of Bifu, said a salary structure was agreed in 1989 which allowed for an annual standard increment of 4.5 per cent of salary as long as performance was "satisfactory". The two sides would then agree an additional annual across-the-board pay rise.

Mr Scrimgeour said: "Our members accepted the fact that Guardian was not able to pay much in recent years because of the large losses it was making. But now it is firmly back in profit, and the company should pay the increment in full and pay an across-the-board increase because of rising living costs."

Guardian said: "Our offer of 4.8 per cent is a fair one and compares well to the rest of the industry. It means that most of the staff will get pay increases of more than 4 per cent."

Ulster Television tunes up for peace

THE prospects of peace in Northern Ireland will bring long-term economic and industrial benefits, even though the withdrawal of large numbers of high-paying security staff could require some short-term adjustments for local businesses, Ulster Television said yesterday.

The company made £2.45 million pre-tax profits against £1.97 million, on the back of a 16 per cent rise in revenue, more than twice the growth achieved by the whole ITV network in the first half of 1994. The dividend is raised from 6.25p to 7.50p, paid out of earnings per share 32 per cent higher at 15.6p. UT's share of the viewing figures, at about 44 per cent, is still better than the equivalent share enjoyed by any other ITV company or by the BBC. John McCann, the general manager, said the outbreak of permanent peace would benefit the province in the long term, even though it might bring one or two short-term problems.

Tempos: Ulster — the peace dividend, page 24

Chinese boost Molins

STRONG demand for cigarette-making machines in China and a lower interest bill helped Molins lift pre-tax profits 10 per cent to £8.8 million in the six months to June 30. Profits were dented by a £400,000 reduction in the net pension credit to £1.4 million following last year's release of £11.8 million from the UK pension schemes to the company. The decline in the pension credit was more than offset by a £600,000 fall in the net interest bill to £500,000. Group turnover rose from £85.2 million to £95.6 million. Tobacco machinery lifted sales by £8.8 million to £61 million. There is a 5.3p interim dividend (4.9p).

Laird Group ahead

LAIRD, the sealing systems and industrial products group, lifted interim profits, before exceptional charges, 17 per cent in the first half and said it had yet to benefit from investments in new production capacity in Spain and the Czech Republic, and in new plant in America. In the six months to June 30, pre-tax profits rose to £23.9 million from £23.5 million, which included a net exceptional credit of £3.1 million. Earnings were 13.2p a share (12.3p), and the interim dividend is 4.4p (4.2p). Turnover rose to £330.7 million from £322.8 million. Acquisitions added £700,000 to profits but this was offset by £800,000 in adverse exchange movements.

Premier Oilfields dips

LOWER oil prices restrained profits at Premier Consolidated Oilfields, the exploration group, despite a 26 per cent rise in oil production, mainly from the group's acreage at Wyth Farm in Dorset. Operating profits were £8.5 million (£8.7 million) in the six months to June 30, but net profit after tax fell from £4.6 million to £3.4 million, owing to higher interest, exchange losses and a higher tax charge. Record production from Wyth farm, which totalled 95,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day, helped to boost Premier's share of the production to 13,919 boepd. No interim dividend is paid.

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Move to keep world trade pact on course

By Colin Nambrough

TRADE negotiators from the European Union, the United States, Canada and Japan — the so-called Quad group — open a two-day meeting in Los Angeles today to try to keep the world trade agreement firmly on course for implementation early next year.

With the key trading nations yet to ratify the Uruguay accord on liberalising world trade, fears have increased that the target implementation date of January 1 next year will be impossible to achieve.

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) is to be superseded by the World Trade Organisation as the free trade body. A sweeping reduction of tariffs and the extension of GATT rules to farm products and services would accompany the change.

Mickey Kantor, the US trade representative, failed this week to break the deadlock in talks with Japan on bi-

lateral trade. Peter Sutherland, director-general of Gatt, gave a warning to the leading trading nations last week that delay to ratification could jeopardise the free trade deal.

A senior trade official said there would be "no finger-pointing" over ratification.



Kantor: talks failure

Family restaurants may be eaten

By Martin Waller

THE small family restaurant, Italian, French, Indian or whatever, that is such a feature of most high streets will come under increasing threat from fast-expanding branded chains owned by big leisure conglomerates.

Opening a restaurant has always been one of the most tiring and time-consuming ways to go bankrupt, observes Paul Slattery, at Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, who has just published a survey of the restaurant trade. But he says the industry is experiencing a financial resurgence for various reasons, some economic and some demographic.

The catch for the sophisticated diner is that the beneficiaries, Kleinwort believes, will either be brewers with restaurant

interests, such as Whitbread, fast-food chains such as McDonald's or a new breed of small niche players, several of which have gained stock market listings.

"I suspect that the major thrust is going to come from chains expanding into the market place," Mr Slattery says. "That will inevitably put pressure on many one-off restaurants."

Their best survival strategy, he believes, will be to become franchisees for established brands. "Profits from franchising are much more attractive to an independent than going it alone."

Over the past quarter of a century, the restaurant trade has always been in the top five industries for bankruptcies and business failures. The typical private independent restaurateur, Mr Slattery believes, are under-capitalised amateurs.

Some stars emerge, but they are few and far between. "Prima donna chef-patrons", he adds, invariably show themselves to be incompetent businessmen, whatever their culinary skills.

Sixty-six brands of restaurants operate in Britain, from McDonald's to fairly sophisticated set-ups such as Café Rouge, operated by one of Mr Slattery's favourites, Pelican Group.

Mr Slattery has a tip for budding entrepreneurs. Although the branded chains include America burger bars, pasta places and pizzerias and a few French bistros, a few of the staples of British eating out have so far been missed. "There's no technical impediment to the growth of a chain of Italian, Indian, Chinese or other ethnic restaurants being developed," Mr Slattery says.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

The life of Tony O'Reilly

International rugby star, millionaire head of Heinz, newspaper tycoon and Ireland's most successful industrialist.

Tomorrow, in The Sunday Times, read the first extract from a revealing new life of Tony O'Reilly by Ivan Fallon

Bank	Rate	Bank	Rate
Australia	2.21	Spain	16.50
Belgium	17.82	Sweden	11.84
Canada	5.58	Switzerland	2.18
Denmark	8.22	Turkey	507.00
France	6.48	USA	1.840
Germany	2.25		
Greece	28.00		
Hong Kong	12.83		
Ireland	1.08		
Italy	235.00		
Japan	181.50		
Netherlands	0.600		
Norway	2.445		
Portugal	11.15		
South Africa	287.50		
South Korea	6.00		
Sweden	11.84		
Switzerland	2.18		
Turkey	507.00		
USA	1.840		

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclay Bank. Other rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

DIBB LUPTON BROOMHEAD: Paul Rhodes and Stuart Benson

Tough team aims to tear legal profession apart

partners in power

Jon Ashworth meets two of the most feared and hated men in British legal circles

High above the roar of the London traffic, two obsessed men sit in their man with a perpetual frown knotting his forehead, stares at a screen, smoking cigarette after cigarette. He is oblivious to the skyline beyond, to the two telephones, and to the heavy ashtray, brimming with twisted Marlboro butts. A floor below, a slighter man sits deep in thought, surrounded by heavy files, vaguely tapping his fingers to a tune from the hi-fi by the door. CDs and food guides are piled near by. They are two of the most feared and hated men in British legal circles. Paul Rhodes, managing partner of Dibb Lupton Broomhead, and Stuart Benson, head of business development, have set

People make the sign of the cross to you at cocktail parties. The mark of the beast.

me and feel dissatisfied if they've let me down," he says. These, then, are Benson and Rhodes, the go-getting lawyer and the hard-nosed manager. But it is far more—Benson, the son of a church organist from east London, who once worked as a bellboy, and knows how to slaughter a pig, Rhodes, a former Hoover salesman who learnt the hard-nosed American approach to business during a stint in New York. Rhodes did not take articles until he was nearly 36. Born in Yorkshire, he read law at Cambridge, captaining the Downing College rugby team, but tired of exams, and went into industry, first in baby products, and later with Hoover, for whom he demonstrated vacuum cleaners. In 1968, he began a six-year stint working in marketing in New York. He was married and divorced for the first time. Tiring of America, he re-

turned to the UK, and joined the tiny Leeds firm of Dibb Lupton as an articled clerk. His boss, a respected insolvency practitioner, was to receive an early taste of the Rhodes bluster. "On the first morning, he said: 'Let's go over the road and get two bacon sandwiches,'" Rhodes recalls. "I said: You can get your own bacon sandwich. I'm here to work." The pair went on to build a thriving practice, but the work took its toll. Rhodes was married and divorced again by the age of 40, a sensitive subject. "You're not going to get into this personal stuff are you?" he growls.

The catalyst came in 1985, when partners met for a brainstorming weekend. The speaker was Ward Bower, a management consultant from Philadelphia, and his words were to have a profound impact. Rhodes says: "We realised we were nothing. We were just a small back-street firm in Leeds. So a few of us said, 'od it, we're going to win.' And win they did. Dibb Lupton began devouring regional firms, and, in 1988, doubled in size by merging with Broomheads, a firm in Sheffield. More mergers followed, and in April 1990, Rhodes went to build up a London office. "My third wife went off on May the 12th," he grunts. Dibb Lupton took the top three floors of 125 London Wall, a space-age development



Paul Rhodes, left, the hard-nosed manager, and Stuart Benson, the go-getting lawyer, believe they are making an impact in the right places

overlooking St Paul's Cathedral. "It was a statement about the firm in London," he says. "We are here, we are serious, we do mean business."

And what of Benson? Born in Bow, he read law at Southampton University, then spent a year in North America. "I farmed turnips and slaugh-

tered pigs," he recalls. "It was probably a good training for litigation." After more fun, including a stint as a bellboy in San Francisco, he took an industrial relations job with the Central Electricity Generating Board. "There was me wanting to change the industrial face of Britain," he sighs.

"All I got to do was interview secretaries and cleaners." Turning back to law, he joined the small firm of Peacock & Goddard and stayed to see it grow into Turner Kenneth Brown, taking charge of litigation and marketing, and earning millions in fees for the practice. But it

all turned sour and he made the move to Dibb Lupton. "Paul is the first person I'd ever met in the legal profession that I'd related to," he says, reaching for a Silk Cut King Size. "We're both absolutely driven people. How do we improve? How do we get better? How do we anticipate

the clients' needs?" Impressive, but at what price? Benson, married for the second time, rarely sees his six children. He works from 6am to 2am, six days a week. "I'm here to do a job," he says. "We're a service industry. It should be 24-hour." Living life intensely, from meetings to oysters, lobster and champagne at the best restaurants, Benson somehow finds time for other interests. "I love sport and music," he says. "Essex at cricket, and West Ham at football, and I'm a total addict of the Rolling Stones. I think I've been to every single Rolling Stones concert since 1962." Rhodes, who has a flat in Wapping and a home in North Yorkshire, admits to a passion for horse racing. Photographs of his horses add a welcome touch. He also sponsors donkeys at a sanctuary in Norwich. This is unlikely to impress the legions of long-suffering secretaries. Rhodes justifies his regime in business terms. "It is a managed and driven culture," he says. "It is a question of keeping people on their toes and keeping them up to scratch. If that makes us rowellers, then so be it." Benson adopts a similar line. "It is a regime where people are very conscious of performance, in the same way as industry or business is."

Unfettered by emotional ties, Rhodes has one mission in life: to make Dibb Lupton bigger and bigger. Benson wants to be there with him as they take the City apart. Their rivals have every reason to be alarmed.

The people who brought you the Brit-pack films

You need to raise £1 million to make a film? No problem, my son, step this way. Now, let's see. We should make five hundred thousand from the US rights, and another quarter of a mill from the Japanese. Then there's the T-shirts, the videos, the video games, the television rights, and the caddy toys. By the way, what's it about? Welcome to the reality of film financing — at least, as seen by Gouldens, the City solicitors, who are carving an enviable reputation for themselves as arrangers of funds for lower budget productions. So-called "Brit-pack" films like *Henry V*, *Leon*, *The Pig Farmer*, and, more recently, *Staggered*, were all made from money raised by Gouldens, and the firm is paying the price — in the hundreds and hundreds of scripts pouring in from young hopefuls. "God knows how many scripts come in," groans Chris Parkinson, the colourful partner who heads the firm's media team. "People come here saying: 'I must have Dustin Hoffman.' We show them the door."

Directors and scriptwriters have been going cap-in-hand to the City for as long as anyone can remember, and plenty of financiers have had their fingers burnt. This, Mr Parkinson says, will not do. "You need to take corporate disciplines and impose them on these artistic types. There have been too many cases of art seducing reason."

Art has seduced reason too many times, reports Jon Ashworth

window has been provided by the Enterprise Investment Scheme, the so-called "son of BES", but this holds far fewer attractions for investors.

Some City firms are setting up media funds to provide venture capital for film projects. Without proper policing, smooth-talking producers could run rings around them once more. "It comes down to due diligence," says Clifford Davis, Mr Parkinson's right-hand man. "There is unquestionably increased interest from the City, but it has not as yet fully tempered the criticism." Whether a film script lives or dies comes down to two columns on a sheet of paper. The first lists the total cost of making the film. The second adds up all the sources of revenue: the foreign rights, licensing fees, and so on. Commissions and costs are stripped out, and the totals are compared. If the second fig-

ure exceeds the first, then the project is worth considering. "The content is almost irrelevant," says Mr Davis. "It's a financial equation."

Ticket sales are almost an afterthought. A film costing £1 million would need to take more than £4 million at the box office to cover the initial investment, because of cuts to exhibitors, VAT, the cost of prints and advertising.

The real money lies in spin-offs such as videotapes and computer game formats. A big video hire chain will hand £30 to £45 in profit back to the distributor for each video it buys. An order for 10,000 copies could rake in £330,000. TV rights could fetch £250,000-£300,000. A satellite TV deal could net another £50,000 or so.

Mr Parkinson admits that the *Staggered*-style projects largely amount to flag-waving for the firm. More lucrative work lies in negotiating rights on behalf of large clients. "The big boys we act for are not interested at this level," he says. "This is a flag-waving exercise. It's also bloody good fun."



Kenneth Branagh and Emma Thompson in *Henry V*

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

US inflation fears bring sharp reverse in London

SHARE prices and bonds fell sharply during late trading in London as inflationary pressures again showed signs of building up in America.

The latest US Producer Price Index was far worse than Wall Street investors had been expecting and increased the prospect of another rise in prime rates. The Dow Jones industrial average fell more than 40 points during the first half-hour of trading, with US Treasury bonds also sharply lower. This, in turn, pulled the rug from underneath gilts and German bunds.

Investors on the London equity market endured a roller-coaster session, with share prices taking their lead from a volatile future which closed with an 11-point discount to the cash market after opening at a premium.

The FT-SE 100 index saw an early lead of almost 14 points wiped out as it posted a loss of 40.7 at 3,139.3, stretching its loss on the week to 83.4 points.

Dealers described selling pressure as light, with only 642 million shares changing hands. The market has already begun to discount higher earnings and dividend growth, and institutions are becoming increasingly nervous about the discrepancy between yields in the equity and bond markets. Fund managers are becoming reluctant to chase equities higher, preferring to switch into gilts.

News earlier this week of a slowdown in retail sales left the likes of Marks and Spencer 8p down at 407p, with Boots 9p lower at 528p amid claims that NatWest Securities, the broker, had turned cautious.

There was heavy turnover in Wills Corroon, the insurance broker, 2p better at 153p as almost 11 million shares were traded. Provident Financial hardened 10p to 54p after giving a series of presentations to fund managers in Scotland.

Manweb, the electricity distributor, finished 19p lower at 847p despite buying back 500,000 of its own shares at 862p. Seaboard has also been buying back its own shares, paying 439p for 1.5 million.

British Airways was a dull market, falling 9p to 401p in the wake of the crash of a USAir Boeing 737 at Pittsburgh with the loss of 131 passengers and crew. The crash has further highlighted British Airways' 24 per cent



Peter Hinchcliffe, an Iceland director, sold a parcel of shares

stake in USAir, worth an estimated £270 million. Iceland Group, the frozen food retailer, touched 166p before finishing 2p firmer at 165p as one director unloaded a parcel of shares in the market. Peter Hinchcliffe has sold 1.5 million shares at 161p,

reducing his total holding to 9.8 million, or 3.5 per cent. Earlier this week Iceland announced a rise in half-year pre-tax profits from £30.1 million to £32.1 million but gave warning that the supermarket food price war was squeezing

al and significantly below expectations. Brokers had been forecasting around £30 million pre-tax for the year to March, down from £25 million previously.

Christie International closed 3p to 176p as first half

figures revealed that tough competition was hurting commission rates. Earnings during the period were 13 per cent higher. Shares of Scanlon, the troubled alarm systems group featured in this column earlier in the week, climbed 6p to 34p after confirming that it had received "unsolicited" bid approaches. Menzies Swain last week denied making any approach following press speculation, but admitted it was keeping a close eye on the situation.

Bob Morton's Dublin-based Silvermines remains favourite to make a move for Scanlon, and may raise some much needed funds in the process. Silvermines was 1p firmer at 40p and Menzies Swain steady at 25p.

Coslan fell 2 1/2p to 25p after revealing a worse than expected first half pre-tax loss of £14 million compared with last year's profit of £68 million, a figure inflated by disposal profits. The group blamed problems at its US mining operations, which are now to be sold off. The group said the sale would leave it with cash in the bank.

World of Leather, the furniture retailer, fell 4p to 90p after unveiling details of its previously announced rights issue. The group is raising almost £3 million by way of one-for-two issue at 75p. The proceeds will be used to cut debt and open further stores.

At the halfway stage, pre-tax profits jumped from £71,000 to £341,000.

GI LT EDGED: Gilts suffered losses stretching almost £2 in reaction to the latest PPI figures in the US, which also dragged US Treasuries and German Bunds sharply lower.

The December series of the Long Gilt dipped below par, ending 1 1/2 off at 99 1/2, as 77,000 contracts were completed.

In the cash market selling pressure was described as light, with dealers reporting switching out of index-linked issues into the longer end, where Treasury 9 per cent 2012 lost 1 1/2 at 102 1/2. In shorts, Treasury 10 per cent 1996 eased seven ticks to 104 1/2.

NEW YORK: US shares held sharply lower levels at midday. The Dow Jones industrial average was off 34.99 points at 3,873.47. Losers were ahead of winners by a ratio of four to one.

WORLD INDEXES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones 3,873.47 (-34.99)

S&P Composite 468.79 (-4.35)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average 19,997.88 (-19.58)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng 10,145.02 (-5.98)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index 413.19 (-2.65)

Sydney:

AO 2070.6 (-18.6)

Frankfurt:

DAX 2185.15 (-12.78)

Singapore:

General 2,299.06 (-4.22)

Brussels:

General 1,566.66 (-1.49)

Paris:

CAC-40 1,948.43 (-34.37)

Zurich:

SIX Gen 670.40 (-2.80)

London:

FT 30 2,426.6 (-27.9)

FT 100 3,139.3 (-40.7)

FTSE Mid 250 3,736.0 (-25.3)

FTSE Europe 100 1,700.0 (-9.08)

FT All-Share 1,578.98 (-17.09)

FT Non Financials 1,706.65 (-17.21)

FT Gold Mines 2,756.4 (-5.4)

FT Industrial 1,081.9 (-0.01)

FT Govt Secs 90.84 (-0.81)

Bargains 2,687.0

S&P Volume 162.67 (-0.42)

CME October 1.5517 (+0.0005)

German Mark 2.3896 (+0.0163)

Exchange Index 78.6 (+0.2)

Bank of England official close 49.6

London:

Bail Gilt Shn Npn Wts 79

Beacon Inv Trs (100) 99

Beacon Inv Trs Wts 42

Conrt Foods Wts 14

INVECO Japan Disc 89

do Japan Disc Wts 47

JF Fledge Japan Wts 63

Magnum Power 58

Orbit (23) 29

Panther Wts 17

Petroceltic 27

Suter Wts 99/04 34

TR Euro Gwth Prg (100) 105

Tops Estates Wts 29

EMAP n/p (360) 46

Raglan Props n/p (32) 1

RISER: 9639 (+289)

Vital: 5020 (+150)

Provident: 5440 (+130)

Rothmans: 4290 (+150)

Uster TV: 6850 (+150)

Enterprise: 4080 (+90)

CPL Avonics: 1850 (+130)

FALLS: 9860 (+130)

Lloyds: 1520 (+100)

Royal Bank Scot: 4210 (+150)

ADT: 7150 (+130)

Asprey: 2000 (+100)

Kingfisher: 4880 (+160)

Storehouse: 2180 (+100)

Time Products: 2280 (+150)

Cable Wireless: 4180 (+100)

Woolsey: 7530 (+160)

Ajo Wiggins: 2760 (+110)

Carlton Corn: 8480 (+120)

British Aerospace: 4970 (+170)

Perry Group: 1750 (+230)

Accident Accident: 7430 (+110)

Sheff: 7430 (+110)

Skebe: 6860 (+140)

Closing Prices Page 33

Investing in Northern Ireland's peace dividend

PEACE brings dividends, or so we are told by the fund managers who are enthusiastically selling investments in Eastern Europe and South Africa. The latest candidate deserving scrutiny by the emerging market specialists is an economic backwater much closer to home. Just one week after the IRA's famous declaration, government ministers were holding out the prospect of jobs and investment in Northern Ireland with the Secretary of State speaking of growth in trade and exports and a material dent in unemployment.

Much of this talk has more to do with offering a carrot to the two sides of the conflict than with concrete investment proposals, but a head of steam is building up over hoped-for economic regeneration. Suggestions of a \$200 million American injection to the International Fund for Ireland - last year Northern Ireland received £12 million from the fund - remain just rumours, but there are powerful domestic incentives for the Clinton administration to ensure that a good chunk of money is sent to Northern Ireland.

The province already benefits from massive subsidy from Britain. Programmed expenditure for the current fiscal year is £7.4 billion of which some £900 million is security-related. Even excluding the cost of army patrols, Northern Ireland gets a third more of the pie per capita than the UK average. Spending in the 1992-93 fiscal year was £4,600 per head in Northern Ireland compared with £3,300 for England and about £2,900 for Scotland and £3,800 for Wales.

Spending more has not made the country richer in the past. Gross domestic product per head is only 82 per cent of the UK average, while 13.2 per cent of the workforce in Northern Ireland is unemployed compared with 9.3 per cent in Great Britain.

Curiously, the economy has in recent years been slightly more buoyant, although growing from a low base, with GDP rising at 29 per cent for the decade to 1992. In Northern Ireland compared with 26 per cent for the UK as a whole.

Investors hoping to lock into a peace dividend will find initial problems in finding a home for their money. The public sector swamps the province: some 31 per cent of the province's workforce is in the public sector compared with 22 per cent on the mainland. The IRA ceasefire announcement has even raised some fears of the loss of a "security dividend". Relatively high incomes for the employed coupled with low housing costs has provided Northern Ireland with a thriving retail sector. Loss of the extra

disposable income made available by RUC overtime pay and an army of squaddies and officials is seen by some as a threat.

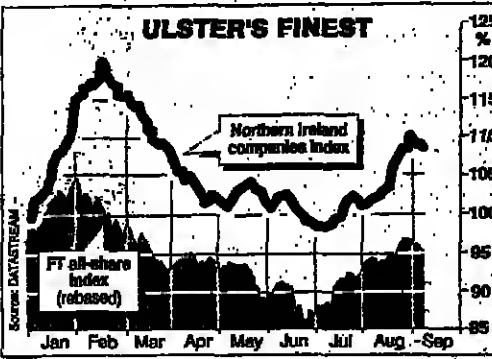
Quoted company shares have enjoyed a bounce on the back of the political developments. Industrial companies such as Powerscreen, the engineers, and Lamont Holdings, the textile group, are exporters and will see little immediate financial gain from peace. Northern Ireland Electricity by contrast hopes to benefit from selling power to the energy-hungry Republic through a re-established interconnector. NIE has been cut off from the Republic's grid by repeated bombing of the installations. Its re-establishment would bring savings. Curiously, electricity consumption peaks at different times on each side of the border and the interconnector would improve efficiency.

More inward investment is the hope of Northern Ireland's industrial development board (IDB). Grants aided foreign investment in the province has had a shaky history with the disastrous and expensive De Lorean car plant and Northern Ireland's business establishment compare the IDB's efforts unfavourably with the IDA, its counterpart in the Republic, which has had notable success in attracting high-tech foreign companies. However, 1993-94 is the IDB's best year since 1982, with 13 investments totalling £260 million of which grants accounted for £64 million.

Removal of the fear of bombs and guns would undoubtedly be a bonus for the IDB: the security problem seems a never-ending public relations headache for the province which can otherwise boast unit labour costs as much as 20 per cent lower than England and higher educational standards than Great Britain. Northern Ireland claims better A-level results than anywhere in the UK and employers in the province speak of highly stable staff with a strong work ethic.

But new jobs will not be created overnight. The employment prospects held out by the Secretary of State were in staffing a resurgent tourist industry with 1 million extra visitors, a sector dominated by low-skilled and low-paid employment. Northern Ireland's industrial establishment will sniff at the prospect of the province becoming a theme park for sentimental Americans and curious Europeans but little else may be on offer in the short term. Northern Ireland needs to turn itself from a dependent territory to a motivated and entrepreneurial economy.

Signs of that transition taking place should send the emerging market specialists flying from London's Docklands into Belfast City Airport.



ULSTER'S FINEST
Northern Ireland companies index

Share price	Market cap £m	Last annual price/earnings ratio	Business
NIE	386	63.54	Electricity
Ulster TV	70.3	5.1	Media
Boomers	254	78.1	4.5
Powerscreen	308	289.8	24.5
Hampden	30	4.5	0.2
Lamont	372	1.1	1.1
EWAT	98	19.2	1.1

But new jobs will not be created overnight. The employment prospects held out by the Secretary of State were in staffing a resurgent tourist industry with 1 million extra visitors, a sector dominated by low-skilled and low-paid employment. Northern Ireland's industrial establishment will sniff at the prospect of the province becoming a theme park for sentimental Americans and curious Europeans but little else may be on offer in the short term. Northern Ireland needs to turn itself from a dependent territory to a motivated and entrepreneurial economy.

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MOVERS OF THE WEEK

Current price	Week's change	Profits warning
Asprey	200p	+20p
Enterprise Oil	409p	+20p
Manweb	847p	+20p
Arjo Wiggins Aption	276p	+20p
Cable & Wireless	419p	+20p
BTR	328p	+20p
Seastream	54p	+20p
British Airways	402p	+20p
Marks and Spencer	407p	+20p

COMMODITIES

COMMODITY EXCHANGE

Commodity	Price	Change
Gold	380.00	+0.50
Silver	16.00	+0.10
Copper	1.50	+0.05
Aluminum	1.20	+0.02
Wheat	1.10	+0.01
Soybeans	1.00	+0.01
Corn	0.90	+0.01
Crude Oil	25.00	+0.20
Natural Gas	1.50	+0.05

CRUDE OIL (London & FOB)

Commodity	Price	Change
Brent Physical	16.05	+0.05
Crude Oil	15.13	+0.13
Crude Oil (Oct)	16.45	+0.15
WTI Intermediate	17.70	+0.05
WTI Intermediate (Nov)	17.00	+0.10
WTI Intermediate (Dec)	17.00	+0.10
Naphtha	16.10	+0.10

PRODUCTS (S&M)

Commodity	Price	Change
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)	15.13	+0.13
Crude Oil	15.13	+0.13
Crude Oil (Oct)	16.45	+0.15
Crude Oil (Nov)	16.45	+0.15
Crude Oil (Dec)	16.45	+0.15
WTI Intermediate	17.70	+0.05
WTI Intermediate (Nov)	17.00	+0.10
WTI Intermediate (Dec)	17.00	+0.10
Naphtha	16.10	+0.10

WHEAT (London & FOB)

Commodity	Price	Change
Wheat	1.10	+0.01
Soybeans	1.00	+0.01
Corn	0.90	+0.01
Crude Oil	25.00	+0.20
Natural Gas	1.50	+0.05

WHEAT (London & FOB)

Commodity	Price	Change
Wheat	1.10	+0.01
Soybeans	1.00	+0.01
Corn	0.90	+0.01
Crude Oil	25.00	+0.20
Natural Gas	1.50	+0.05

WHEAT (London & FOB)

Commodity	Price	Change
Wheat	1.10	+0.01
Soybeans	1.00	+0.01
Corn	0.90	+0.01
Crude Oil	25.00	+0.20
Natural Gas	1.50	+0.05

WHEAT (London & FOB)

Commodity	Price	Change
Wheat	1.10	+0.01
Soybeans	1.00	+0.01
Corn	0.90	+0.01
Crude Oil	25.00	+0.20
Natural Gas	1.50	+0.05

WHEAT (London & FOB)

Commodity	Price	Change
Wheat	1.10	+0.01
Soybeans	1.00	+0.01
Corn	0.90	+0.01
Crude Oil	25.00	+0.20
Natural Gas	1.50	+0.05

WHEAT (London & FOB)

Commodity	Price	Change
Wheat	1.10	+0.01
Soybeans	1.00	+0.01
Corn	0.90	+0.01
Crude Oil	25.00	+0.20
Natural Gas	1.50	+0.05

WHEAT (London & FOB)

Commodity	Price	Change
Wheat	1.10	+0.01
Soybeans	1.00	+0.01
Corn	0.90	+0.01
Crude Oil	25.00	+0.20
Natural Gas	1.50	+0.05

WHEAT (London & FOB)

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Wheat	1.10	+0.01
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Soybeans	1.00	+0.01
Corn	0.90	+0.01
Crude Oil	25.00	+0.20
Natural Gas	1.50	+0.05

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

FT-SE 100

Commodity	Price	Change
FT-SE 100	3,139.3	-40.7
FTSE Mid 250	3,736.0	-25.3
FTSE Europe 100	1,700.0	-9.08
FT All-Share	1,578.98	-17.09
FT Non Financials	1,706.65	-17.21
FT Gold Mines	2,756.4	-5.4
FT Industrial	1,081.9	-0.01
FT Govt Secs	90.84	-0.81
Bargains	2,687.0	
S&P Volume	162.67	-0.42
CME October	1.5517	+0.0005
German Mark	2.3896	+0.0163
Exchange Index	78.6	+0.2
Bank of England official close	49.6	

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How self-help may be order of the day

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Roll out the barrel for share in beer

Ten years on from the privatisation of British Telecom, Liz Dolan looks at the attractions of former government stocks

Should Sid buy, sell, or hold?

Ten years ago this autumn, Joe Public got his first real introduction to the stock market with the all-singing, all-dancing privatisation of British Telecom. The soon-to-be-rechristened Sids piled in with a will and, when dealings started in November, the shares rocketed.

The success of the BT experiment set investors' imaginations alight. Those who had to date looked no further than building society accounts as repositories for their savings, now clamoured for shares in each successive privatisation.

The Government talked enthusiastically of "wider share ownership", creating visions of ordinary people scanning the *Financial Times* for the next Good Thing on the stock market. But, with the exception of a few high-profile launches, notably Laura Ashley, TSB and Abbey National, most small investors have stuck firmly to former government stocks. Many have never sold. This is not necessarily a bad idea. Equity investors should always take a long-term view, and dealing costs can decimate profits, especially from small holdings.

But no portfolio is cast in stone. It is never a good idea to leave share certificates yellowing in the loft. Periodic reviews are essential. With British Gas watching discussing dividend cuts, and with a Labour election victory a real possibility, privatised stocks may not now be the good things they once were.

There is nothing to say that Tony Blair's new Labour Party has retained the same prejudice against privatised industries shown by its counterpart ten years ago. It may pose no dangers whatsoever. But the stock market's pro-conservative stance is still likely to affect share prices as the 1996 general election nears.

Aside from all this, the fact that privatised companies were once government-owned does not make them any more attractive than any other quoted stock — except of

course for those awaiting "loyalty" bonus share issues, such as those due to be paid to BT2 shareholders later this year.

Several reasonably priced telephone dealing services now exist. They include: Barclayshare, £15 minimum (0845 777200); First Direct, £20 (0800 222000); Halifax, £21.50 (021-236 6363); National & Provincial £10 (0800 808080); Lloyds Bank Sharedeal, £18.50 (0345 888200); Norwich & Peterborough Brokerline, £17 (0603 630063); Redmayne Bentley, £17.50 (0800 181322); Share Centre, £12.50 (0800 800008); Sharelink, £20 (021 200 2242); Walker, Crips

Weddle Beck, £15 (0800 289660); Wise Speke, £15 (£9 postal) (0532 444095); and Yorkshire Building Society, £9 (0274 736736). These are all execution-only services — that is, they simply buy or sell shares as instructed. They do not give advice about what you should do. If you have a reasonably sized portfolio worth, say, £25,000 or more, and do not want to make all your investment decisions yourself, you may wish to use a stockbroker. This can be expensive, however, especially for small shareholders.

Some brokers, such as Barclayshare and Henderson Crosthwaite, offer a basic advisory service for a nominal annual fee. Other sources of advice include the financial press and Teletext.

Call notices for the third payment on BT2 shares are due to go out on September 20. The last date for the receipt of cheques is October 6, to allow them to clear by October 11. Those whose shares are held in nominee accounts administered by share shops and stockbrokers will have an earlier deadline to allow payments to be processed and sent off. The last day of dealing at the partly paid price is September 30. Gavin Oldham, of The Share Centre, says shareholders have three options: pay, sell, or sell sufficient shares to pay the third tranche. The latter option is proving increasingly popular, he says.



A light was shed on how to buy shares when British Telecom was first sold to the public ten years ago. Since then, the other utilities have offered varying prospects

British Telecom: The shares have come off a long way since last year and are probably now reasonably valued. There is a general feeling that the worst is over. Unless you need the cash, pay the third instalment and await further news. British Gas: Fears about a half-time dividend cut further depressed the miserable share price, before results this week. In the event, the dividend payout was maintained, but concern will persist until the company makes an announcement on future dividend policy on September 29. Now may be the time to switch

What the experts have to say

at least part of your holding into something else. British Airways: Unexciting, but reasonably secure. The dividend payout is lower than the stock market average and the shares look fairly priced after outperforming the market last year. The City is divided. "There's still a couple of years left in them," says NatWest Markets. "You can do better elsewhere," says Ian Wild, of BZW. BAA: A monopoly growth

stock with a very strong international spread, so it is not dependent on the sluggish UK recovery, says Peter Bergius, of Kleinwort Benson. Hold/buy. British Petroleum: An international stock sensitive to the oil price. This will help to spread the risk of an otherwise domestically orientated portfolio. Hold on to your shares. British Steel: From an issue price of 125p in December 1988, it is now in the high 150s,

after falling to 46p at one point. Ewan Fraser, of James Capel, says the future looks bright. Steel prices are improving and dividends are likely to grow strongly. Hang on; maybe buy more. Electricity: The 12 regional companies are now able to buy back up to 10 per cent of the shares. This is good news for the share price over the next few weeks. The expected demerger early next year of the National Grid, at present jointly owned by the 12, should

mean shareholders get a free holding in the demerged company too. Dividend performance will remain strong, with some companies making generous one-off additional payments. East Midlands is already talking of one of £2 per share within the next nine months. Definitely worth hanging on. Prospects for the Scottish companies look dull. Sell. Northern Ireland looks interesting, especially if the peace lasts. Hold — more inward investment in the province is a strong possibility.

Generators: These are fully valued, says Steve Doe, of Hoare Govett, but there should be some excitement when the remaining 40 per cent is floated in February/March next year. Hang on for the dividend, plus preferential treatment in the next Generators float. Water: Lots of worries here. Particularly vulnerable to Labour-inspired regulatory changes. Pretty fairly valued and major investment on the cards. Regulators may be planning to tighten the screw. Hold on, preferably, sell.

Company	Start date	Issue price	Price 8/9/94	Total return*
British Telecom	11/84	130p	394 1/2p	304.4
British Gas	12/88	135p	280p	354.8
British Airways	02/87	125p	410p	522.2
BAA	07/87	122 1/2p	450p	559.0
BP	11/87	350p	450p	242.0
Rolls-Royce	10/87	170p	180p	186.3
British Steel	12/88	125p	152 1/2p	188.9
Anglian Water	12/88	240p	572 1/2p	361.1
North West Water			572 1/2p	346.8
Norumb Water			585p	416.9
Severn-Trent			584 1/2p	344.8
South West Water			542p	348.7
Southern Water			565p	364.8
Thames Water			515p	315.1
Welsh Water			694p	420.8
Wessex Water			684p	383.9
Yorkshire Water			567p	340.3
East Mid Electricity	12/80		750p	414.7
Eastern Electricity			782 1/2p	428.4
London Electricity			714p	382.1
Mersey			882p	454.9
Midland Electricity			818p	431.5
Northern Electricity			822 1/2p	432.3
Norweb			814p	431.8
Seaboard			444p	477.4
S Wales Electricity			824p	441.9
S West Electricity			750p	438.0
Southern Electricity			770p	413.3
York Electricity			770p	413.3
National Power	03/91	175p	390p	450.0
PowerGen	03/91	175p	370p	408.9
Scott Hydro	03/91	240p	391p	164.1
Scottish Power	03/91	240p	380p	154.7
Nineve Electricity	05/93	220p	390p	166.3

* Total returns, including dividends, as percentage of initial investment. ** After share split. X If sold at present, seller retains right to forthcoming dividend. Source: Datastream

Getting behind appearances

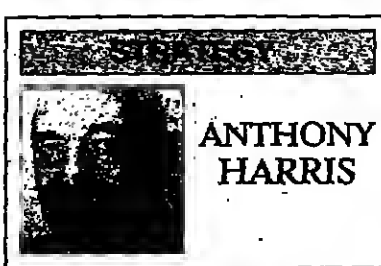
You are an investor. You win some, you lose some, but on balance, you tell yourself, you come out ahead of the averages. You are telling yourself a lie, and you know it.

If that paragraph* does not apply to you, you need not bother with this column — the first of which appears today. Even if it does, there are no promises. Its aim is simply to help you to understand the forces that drive an economy, and the sometimes very different forces which drive security market prices.

Successful investment can occasionally be very simple: buy privatisation issues, for example, because everyone knows that these are political issues, deliberately priced to reward their supporters. But such occasions are rare, and the simplest of all strategies is that of Sid, who bought the issues, cashed in, and has never been seen in the markets since then. Better still, switch out of direct shareholding into a well-run unit trust: after a sometimes hefty entrance fee, this is a pretty foolproof way to match the averages. So why did you think you could do better?

Above all, surely, you enjoy the game. You like a bit of risk, you heard something at the pub, you have a feel for how business is going, you follow prices, and believe that the trend is your friend. In other words, you are a typical small investor, or in the language of City professionals, a typical mug. Mugs are to be found at every level, including insiders.

Take, for example, the chairman of one of the companies swallowed up in the 1960s disaster called the British Motor Corporation. His wife inherited a



ANTHONY HARRIS

small fortune, and he put the lot into his own shares at £2.25 (or 45 shillings, then). That was their all-time record high; from then on, they slowly sank without trace. He didn't know the strength of the competition. Or an uncle of mine, chairman of a still-successful company, who was always telling the family when to buy or sell (which would now be illegal). He knew his own business; but he didn't know how much the market already knew.

That is really the most fundamental of all lessons: indeed, a trial title for this column was simply "The Contrarian". A contrarian is an investor who, knowing that since all the facts are already discounted in market prices, he will invest against any detectable consensus. If every adviser is talking of a bull market, the contrarian will sell; because the bullishness of advisers is already in the market. Thinking in this way is a very useful discipline; and it leads to one correct conclusion. The successful investor is the one who is least often taken by surprise. Sometimes, though, the consensus is surprisingly right. You must try to judge whether it is well informed.

And why shouldn't it be well informed? Everyone, after all, has access to the same statistics; and even if they are admittedly inaccurate, they are the best information available. But the market also reacts to "information" drawn from the market itself, and that is a prime source of error. Markets are moved not only by news, but by the tidal flows of money and by mass psychology. A deep monetary scholar such as Professor Gordon Pepper can explain why markets reliably peak at the bottom of an economic recession; a psychologist may be able to explain the repeated appearance of financial bubbles and crashes — expressions of mass hysteria.

But those who try to reason backwards, and assume that all price movements are inspired by reality, get reality wrong. Hence, for example, the reported fears of rising inflation for most of the past two years, in spite of the fact that inflation was falling. Bond prices have fallen in the past six months mainly because they had previously risen so far — a bubble. They fell the more sharply because the Japanese were shy of foreign currencies, and because some large investors were wrong-footed. They included British banks that were precisely right about inflation, but wrong about bonds. Price trends do tell you something; but it is about the market, not necessarily about the economy it is supposed to reflect. That is the kind of puzzle this column will try to solve. *Stolen shamelessly from Skid Simon's great book, *Why you lose at bridge*.

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Long-term care: over to you

Sara McConnell reports on the dangerous assumptions made by the public on ultimate care costs

Most people prefer not to contemplate the possibility of having to go into a nursing home or pay nurses to look after them if they can no longer cope in old age. If they have thought about it, most assume the State will pay care costs or they will be cared for by their family.

But, according to a report published this week by the Family Policy Studies Centre, these are dangerous assumptions. People are living longer — in 30 years a quarter of people in the European Union will be 60 or older — but their families are smaller and often live further away. There will be fewer middle-aged people to look after elderly relatives.

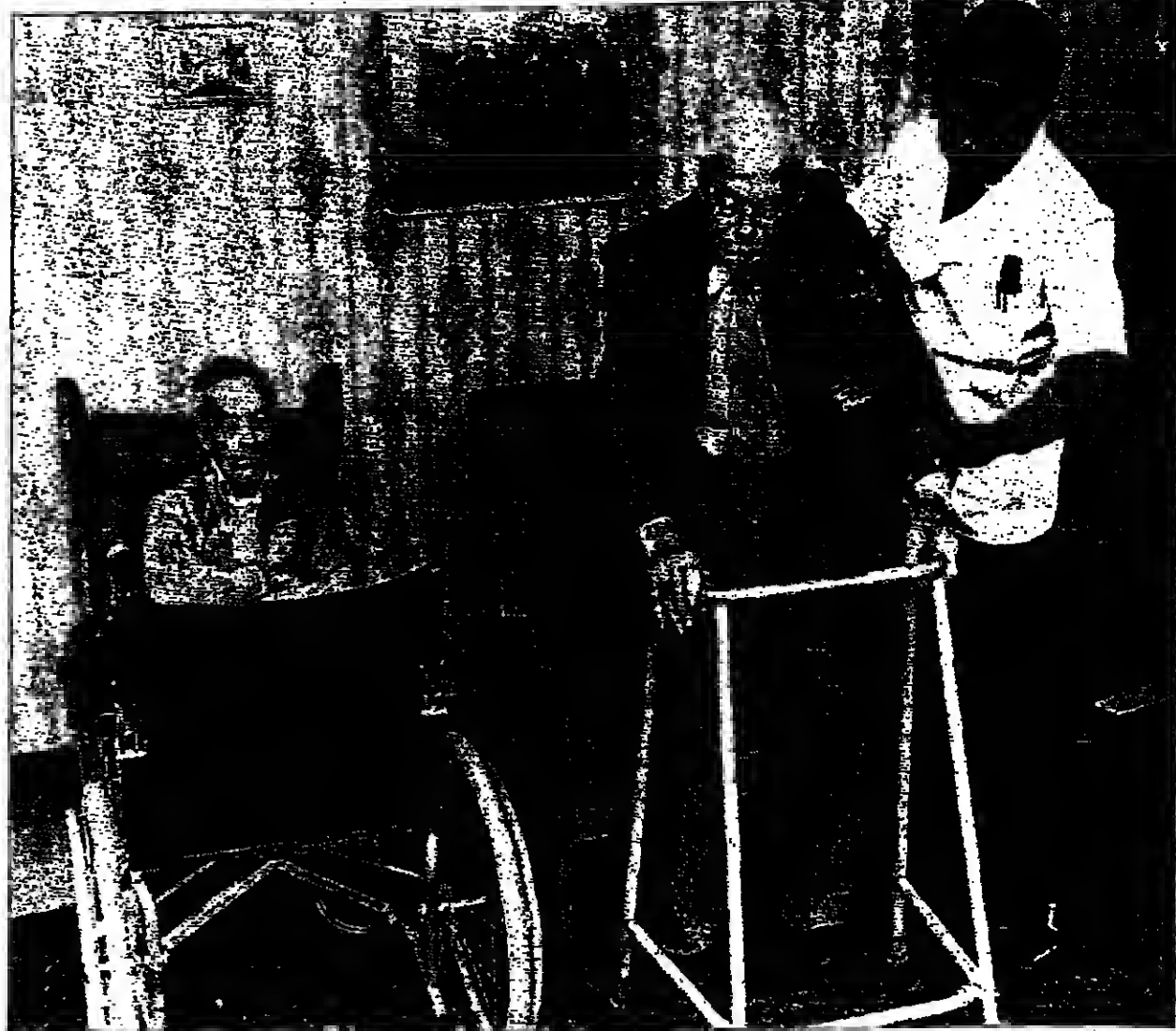
At the same time, the Government is putting more responsibility on the elderly and their families to provide for themselves and relieve the State of the burden of supporting them. As state support is means-tested, anyone with more than a few thousand pounds will not be helped.

One option suggested in the report, *Crisis in Care?*, is to force people to pay for their own long-term care either at home or in a residential home, through compulsory insur-

ance. Germany introduced it this year. Francis McGlone, one of the authors of the report, says compulsory insurance "would not only meet the financial cost of long-term care, but would help to ensure older people no longer became dependent on their families or means-tested benefits".

Compulsory insurance, possibly paid through National Insurance contributions for employees and credits for others into a private insurance policy, is some way off. Voluntary insurance to cover long-term care exists, but people have so far resisted buying it. Apart from natural reluctance to plan for a dependent old age, policies can be costly. With most, you get nothing back if you do not claim.

Only about 10,000 people have cover through a handful of insurers and only one person has claimed. Jeremy Oakley, head of marketing at PPP Lifetime, says: "More people are going to end up paying for themselves, but, so far, take-up is relatively slow. We always thought it would be." Peter Dalby, managing director of Prime Health, another insurer offering a long-term care policy, says: "People don't



More people will have to pay for themselves, but take-up to insure for old-age care in residential homes is very slow

realise how much the State has withdrawn. And they don't realise the cost of nursing homes. But we [insurers] have not got this message over. It is an educational process." He added: "The average person has no spare cash until they are in their late fifties. A policy is a long-term investment. People in their late fifties are starting to think: how will we cope?"

With difficulty, is often the answer. Private nursing and

residential homes are expensive, as is care at home. Commercial Union says a private nursing home costs on average £22,500 a year in the South East and £17,500 elsewhere. To have professional nursing at home costs £7.50 an hour on average, rising to almost £20 on public holidays.

Expenses such as these are a struggle if you "only" have income from savings and pensions and do not qualify for much state help. One alternative to insurance is to sell your home, if you are forced to move to a nursing home. But this is not always practicable or possible, particularly in a stagnant housing market. Eagle Star, which has a long-term care policy funded by a lump sum from house sales, has had problems because potential policyholders have not been able to sell. So far, the company has sold 346 policies.

Eagle Star's Care Fees Payment Plan is the only one into which you have to pay a lump sum. It is aimed at people who are just about to move into a home, but who have not been buying a policy already. The lump sum buys a series of endowments. These mature monthly and guarantee payment of fees at home or in a nursing home. If you die within the first six to 24 months, your family will get back the initial capital invested, less any payments made. If you decide to plan ahead and buy a long-term care policy "just in case", there are several policies on offer from companies including Prime Health (part of Standard Life), Commercial Union and PPP Lifetime. Other companies, such as Sun Alliance, add long stay care insurance on to their basic life assurance policies.

■ **Commercial Union:** Well Being Insurance. You can pay regularly or in a lump sum, starting at any age between 40 and 75. If you pay in a lump sum, a five-year life assurance policy is included. You can choose between Premier, for moderate or severe disability, or Reserve, for severe disability. The minimum premium is £20 a month, £200 a year regularly, or £5,000 in a lump sum. You can top up an existing policy with a minimum of £2,500. Premiums of a fixed level of benefit are guaranteed for the first five years. You will get half the full benefit if you cannot carry out two out of six activities of daily living (ADLs), and are moderately disabled and full benefit if you cannot carry out three, and are severely disabled. The company will pay a maximum of £30,000 a year as a monthly income direct to the care provider for life, or until recovery. There is a 90-day waiting period. If you have paid five years' premiums but cannot, or do not want to, continue, your policy will be paid up. The benefits you have paid for will be there should you need them, but you will not have to pay any more premiums.

■ **Prime Health:** Home Healthcare. There are two levels of cover, standard and Plus, which includes medical insurance. You can start the policy at any time between 18 and 75. The payout from the policy depends on how many ADLs you cannot carry out. The policy covers you if you are mentally ill and need supervision. The company is keen to keep people in their own homes and will provide carers for up to 21 hours a week on the standard policy and 28 hours for Plus.

■ **Sun Alliance:** Universal Protection Plan. This is a whole-of-life policy with an option for long-term care. If you cannot carry out four out of six ADLs after 60, the policy will pay out a cash lump sum or by instalments. You can take out the policy at any age between 18 and 74. The minimum premium is £20 a month, £240 a year, or £500 lump sum. Premiums are guaranteed for ten years, then reviewed every five. The life policy will pay out to your family when you die.

■ **PPP Lifetime:** Lifetime Care Plan. You can choose between Premier, for moderate or severe disability, or Select, for severe disability. You can start the policy anytime between the ages of 21 and 79, or 84 for single premiums. It will cost you a

minimum of £30 a month, or £300 a year in regular payments, or £2,500 for a lump sum. The minimum top-up is £1,000. Premiums can be guaranteed for up to ten years. Half and full benefits are assessed in a similar way to Commercial Union's. The maximum benefit is £3,000 a month after 13 weeks. Benefits are paid directly to the home. Payments will continue for a limited time or for life, whichever you choose.

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- Ask how often premiums are reviewed. You may pay larger premiums for the same level of cover. If premiums are guaranteed, find out for how long, and if there is a limit.
- Find out if you can reduce cover to keep the premiums down. But don't reduce it too far.
- Beware of policies that cover you for a limited time only. You may need care after benefits have stopped.
- Consider opting to increase your benefits in line with inflation or by a fixed annual percentage.
- Check how long you will wait after making a claim before getting a payout.
- Find out if your insurer can pay the nursing home directly. If it can, you don't pay tax on your benefits. If you accept a lump sum or an income, this is taxed.
- Check if you can change homes without affecting your benefit and if you can choose a more expensive home and pay the extra yourself.
- Tell your solicitor or someone in your family about your policy, in case you are too ill to claim yourself.

Source: Which? Magazine.

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Ill-judged carrots dangled by the C&G

It is now almost exactly a month since the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society broke the news to its customers that they would not all get a share of the £1.8 billion Lloyds Bank was offering for the C&G. The ensuing storm of protest shows no sign of abating, as the letters that continue to pour into Weekend Money demonstrate.

People are, not unnaturally, angry that they are not going to get bonuses, in some cases amounting to tens of thousands of pounds. But dismissing this anger as simple greed, as some have, is too easy. The whole sorry affair raises other important issues. One of these is C&G's handling of the takeover announcement. Another, even more important, is the impact the High Court's interpretation of the

law will have on mutual building societies and their accountability to members in the future.

The most charitable thing anyone can say about the C&G's handling of the takeover is that it appears to have been unfortunate in its advisers. However, desperate C&G was to announce the takeover, it is unlikely that the society would have ignored the advice of expensive lawyers if they had advised against it. The lawyers predicted victory. So C&G proceeded to dangle the carrot of bonuses in front of all savers and borrowers, without being certain that the law would allow it to deliver on its promises. This was crass. C&G's own desperate keenness to

see everything signed and sealed has not helped. In retrospect, there seems no good reason why the announcement could not have waited a few more months until after the judgment.

As it is, customers were presented with a complex offer, which shut many of them out of a share in what they believe is their money. C&G then made things worse by refusing to discuss the offer with customers until it extended its helpline two weeks ago.

C&G members will vote next year. But the shadow of the High Court's interpretation of the law hangs heavy over future takeovers. One absurdity

of the judgment in the C&G case is that depositors do better out of the deal than voting members in share accounts.

Depositors are technically not members of the society, so they cannot vote. But because they are not bound by the rule that only members of two years' standing can benefit from a takeover.

Building society investors are not stupid. No one would blame them if they chose a deposit account over a share account. Rates may not be as good, but a bonus would more than make up for it. If savers vote with their feet and open deposit accounts, fewer will be eligible to vote. Which means fewer checks on already far too unaccountable boards.

CHRIS HARRIS

Take bite out of dental fees

Robert Miller suggests some ways in which NHS patients can ease the pain of dearer treatment



NHS patients face an average annual increase of £12 to £38 in the cost of dental care

Britain's 18,500 dentists are fighting a rear-guard action against the radical proposals outlined in the Government's Green Paper on *Improving NHS Dentistry*. A meeting is to be held in London, at the end of next month, to decide on their response.

But, whatever the outcome, patients face the prospect of paying the full cost of NHS treatment, or being forced to take out private insurance cover if they wish to remain with the same dentist. This does not necessarily mean that

there should be a stampede to take out such policies.

Michael Watson, head of practitioner services at the British Dental Association and a former dentist, says: "If you balance out the £30 average annual cost of NHS treatment and compare it with paying an average of up to £100 a year for private insurance, the NHS can still offer a good deal."

Julian Stainton, managing director of WPA, the medical insurer that also offers cover for dental treatment, agrees. He says: "Nothing is for free and all private dental insur-

ance does is to iron out the bumps of unexpected costs."

Those of the 30 million registered NHS patients who stay within the system face an average annual increase of £12 to £38 in the cost of dental care.

Major providers of dental insurance policies, which include BUPA, PPF, Norwich Union and Denture, are gearing up for a wave of renewed interest in these plans. The cost of monthly premiums generally ranges between £5 and £15. Such schemes are also increasingly available from your dentist, or they may be available through your employer. Always check to see what sort of cover is provided and whether it extends to travel abroad, or is limited to the UK.

Medical Insurance Agency this week launched Clientent, a monthly payment plan, as an alternative to insurance. After an initial free assessment of your oral health, the dentist gives a cost estimate for any treatment and ongoing care, to be spread over 12 monthly payments, expected to range between £7 and £17.

Bob Bycroft, of Medical Insurance Agency, says: "This Government is intent on transferring more of the cost burden of dental treatment to the public."

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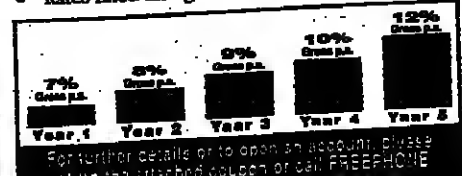
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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Time to reconsider Pep benefits

From Mr B. Hoole
Sir, In considering the hardship imposed on the less well off by increased heating costs, namely value-added tax, ought we not to inquire into the continuation of our present personal equity plan (Pep) benefits?
Many of the owners of Pep plans (who have invested a

total of £12,000 million in Peps with a view to recovering tax) are mildly astonished, and perhaps embarrassed, by their good fortunes.
Yours faithfully,
BASIL HOOLE,
Copper Coln,
Priestlands,
Sherborne,
Dorset.

C&G: play fair or face consequences

From Mr L. Russell
Sir, I refer to Colin Schofield's question (Weekend Money, August 27) asking "Why can't Cheltenham & Gloucester wait until all voting investors at the time of the original announcement have been members' two years and qualify?"

I feel that C&G's reply is quite unreasonable and unacceptable and should be reconsidered. If people die while waiting for the payout, then surely they won't need it anyway. I am 71 and ask "why the hurry"? Is it because the directors of C&G just can't wait to get their hands on the higher salaries they will obtain when they are brought into line with Lloyds Bank?

As a matter of interest, I invested in C&G's Best 90 account in March 1993, in order to take advantage of the higher interest rates. Not only has it pulled the mat from under my feet in respect of the payout promised in April - it has also withdrawn the higher interest rates and its Best 90 account is anything but the best.

Come on C&G: play fair with all your members and not just those who will vote for the takeover when the time comes.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE RUSSELL,
The Anchorage,
Castle Street,
Winchester,
Gloucestershire.

From Mr T. J. Stevenson
Sir, I was pleased to see the article about the inequity of the C&G payout plan. Having changed from a London Deposit account to Instant 7, I shall not be receiving any of the payout, despite having had accounts with C&G for over three years.

Although the disadvantaged are in a minority, we do constitute a significant proportion of the shareholders and the invested funds. If the society is unwilling to find a more equitable plan, we should withdraw our money. I shall be seriously considering this option: other societies now have equally competitive postal accounts.

The society/bank could not afford to lose funds on such a scale. Disadvantaged shareholders should write to Andrew Longhurst, the C&G chief executive, telling him that they intend to withdraw their money.

This might have some effect on the top management of C&G to find a more equitable solution.
Yours faithfully,
T. J. STEVENSON,
14 Telford Close,
Weymouth,
Dorset.

Comment, page 27



Loan company ignores 'no' as an answer

From Mr R. Morton
Sir, The experience of my son, living abroad, has been very similar to that of Mr Possener's daughter (Weekend Money Letters, August 27). I believe, however, that the position is even worse than he describes.

I noticed that the almost weekly stream of letters addressed to my son were generally sent by second-class post from Glasgow three or four days after being written, thus taking about a week to arrive. Although I told the Student Loan Company that it was wasting time and money continuing to send reminders, it said that it was unable to stop

them while arrears were outstanding.

This has been underlined by the last two letters from the company, comprising one dated August 15, which acknowledges receipt of my son's deferment application (and says that no refund of earlier repayments can be made) and one dated August 18, complaining that no deferment application has been received.

Are the banks paying for this absurdity, or are we the taxpayers?
Yours faithfully,
ROGER MORTON,
Rose Cottage,
Kirk Ireton,
Derby.

Capital gains tax gives gilts a miss

From Mr M. Landau
Sir, I refer to the article "Savings and Investments" (Weekend Money, August 27). In the third paragraph, the advice is given to higher rate taxpayers to buy gilts with more of a capital return on redemption in order to use up the full capital gains tax allowance of £5,000. I wish to

point out that all gains arising on the disposal or redemption of gilts are totally exempt from capital gains tax. Conversely, losses arising on the disposal of gilts are not allowable deductions.

Yours faithfully,
M. LANDAU,
44 Connaught Drive,
NW11.

INTEREST RATES ROUNDUP

	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	At tax rates 40%	Minimum investment	Notice	Contact
BANKS						
Ordinary Dep A/c	0.38	0.38	0.30	1,000	7 day	
Fixed Term Deposits						
Barclays	4.00	3.00	2.40	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-486 1567
	4.50	3.48	2.74	25,000-50,000	3 mth	071-486 1567
	4.50	3.48	2.74	10,000-no max	1 mth	Local branch
	4.50	3.48	2.74	10,000-no max	3 mth	Local branch
	4.50	3.48	2.74	10,000-100,000	1 mth	0742 829655
	4.50	3.48	2.74	10,000-100,000	3 mth	0742 829655
	4.50	3.48	2.74	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-726 1000
	4.50	3.48	2.74	25,000-50,000	3 mth	071-726 1000

HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	At tax rates 40%	Minimum investment	Notice	Contact
BANK OF SCOTLAND HIBCA						
Prime A/c	3.50	2.62	2.08	2,500	none	081-442 7777
Current A/c	2.00	1.50	1.20	1,000	none	081 2546286
Co-operative	0.25	0.18	0.14	none	none	071 626 5543
Current A/c	5.00	3.75	3.00	2,000	none	0800 552844
Lloyds HICA	0.50	0.37	0.29	500	none	0273 433772
Midland HICA	1.12	1.12	0.80	2,000	none	0743 426555
Abbey National	1.00	0.75	0.60	1,000	none	Local branch
Royal Bank of Scotland	1.50	1.12	0.88	2,000	none	031-536 8855
TSB Bank	1.00	0.75	0.60	2,000	none	071-400 6038

BUILDING SOCIETIES

	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	At tax rates 40%	Minimum investment	Notice	Contact
Ordinary Share A/c	1.00	0.75	0.60	50+	none	
Best buy - largest socs:						
Halifax	6.20	4.73	3.78	25,000 min	Postal	
Bradford & Bingley	6.75	5.06	4.05	100,000 min	30 day	
Aspen (Bristol/West)	6.95	5.14	4.11	50,000 min	30 day	
Aspen (East)	7.20	5.40	4.32	100,000 min	1 year	
Best buy - all socs:						
Nottingham	6.50	4.88	3.90	25,000 min	Instnl	
Bradford & Bingley	6.50	4.88	3.90	10,000 min	30 day	
Northern Rock	6.80	5.14	4.11	25,000 min	30 day	
Scarborough	6.80	5.14	4.11	25,000 min	30 day	
Universal	7.30	5.48	4.38	50,000 min	1 year	

Compiled by Cherie de Vries Moneyline - call 071 404 5700 for further details

NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	At tax rates 40%	Minimum investment	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c	3.25	2.44	1.96	500-10,000	8 day	041-649-4955
Investment A/c	5.25	3.94	3.15	20-450	1 mth	041-649-4955
Income Bond	6.50	4.88	3.90	2,000-25,000	1 mth	041-649-4955
7th Index Linked	3.00	3.00	3.00	100-10,000	8 day	091-356-4800
4th Index Cert	5.40	5.40	5.40	100-10,000	8 day	091-356-4800
Yearly Plan	5.40	5.40	5.40	20-450	14 day	091-356-4800
Children's Bond	7.25	7.25	7.25	25-1,000		
Can Bid Plan	3.51	3.51	3.51			
Capital Bond	7.25	7.25	7.25	100-250,000	8 days	041-649-4955
1st Option Bond	4.50	4.50	4.50	1,000-250,000		

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	At tax rates 40%	Minimum investment	Notice	Contact
AG Life	3.15	3.15	3.15	50,000 min	1 yr	Plus from
General Portfolio	6.10	6.10	6.10	50,000 min	3 yr	Chase de
Laurentine Life	6.80	6.80	6.80	50,000 min	3 yr	Vare
Prudential Life	7.20	7.20	7.20	1,000 min	4 yr	071 404 5708
Sunlife	7.20	7.20	7.20	10,000 min	5 yr	for details

RATES

	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	At tax rates 40%
RPI (July 93-94)	+2.2%		
Bank Base Rate	5.25%		
Personal Loan	25%		
Credit Card	25-27%		

HOLIDAY RATES

	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	At tax rates 40%
RP1 (July 93-94)	195.50		
Bank Base Rate	7.25		
Personal Loan	25%		
Credit Card	25-27%		

TESSA

	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	At tax rates 40%
Market Harbor	7.50	5.62	4.50
Hindley & Pigg	7.50	5.62	4.50
Holbeck	7.50	5.62	4.50
National County	7.50	5.62	4.50
Related & West	7.50	5.62	4.50

1.25% for balances below £500, and 2.0% for balances above £500, based on the rate of interest on the day of withdrawal. * 1.25% for balances below £500, and 2.0% for balances above £500, based on the rate of interest on the day of withdrawal. * 1.25% for balances below £500, and 2.0% for balances above £500, based on the rate of interest on the day of withdrawal.

Compiled by JOANNA PETERS

FIRST TIME BUYERS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	At tax rates 40%
London			
1st time buyer	1.25%	1.25%	1.25%
2nd time buyer	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%
3rd time buyer	3.75%	3.75%	3.75%

BUILDING SOCIETIES

	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	At tax rates 40%
Scarborough	1.25%	1.25%	1.25%
0723 388115			
0595 355939			
0786 63675			

BANKS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	At tax rates 40%
Bank of Ireland	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%
0734 383380			

OTHER BANKS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	At tax rates 40%
Lloyds	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%
0800 400121			

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Wall Street drags London lower

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32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2

DRAPERY, STORES

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2

FOODS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2

INSURANCE

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2

BREWERIES

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2

BUILDING, ROADS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2

ELECTRICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2

HOTELS, CATERERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2

INDUSTRIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
32	31	Abey	100	-1	4.15	13.2
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Players at odds with officialdom not an encouraging sign for England

World Cup dominates home horizons

THIS is the rugby union season where we all end with egg on our faces: pressurised players, harassed administrators, pompous pundits amid the helter-skelter of a game seeking its true identity in an uncertain future, yet in such rude health that, year by year, it continues to expand.

But above all in Britain, where competitive rugby begins today in England and Scotland, this season must establish whether any one of the home unions is fit to stand alongside the world leaders—Australia, France and New Zealand. Not for what they have done in the past but for what they will do in next year's World Cup, now the *sine qua non* for the game.

That leading players seem constantly at odds with officialdom in England is not an encouraging sign, and any judgments about success or failure this season may hang on how many England players turn out for their clubs at critical times. Relegation could rest on a fixture between a club desperate for points meeting a strong side resting its capped players and the contrast with Wales, where there is a break in the league programme this week and next because of the Romania-Wales fixture next Saturday, is marked.

Yet the clubs who will provide players for the national side acknowledge what World Cup success will do to project the game. "We all want England to do well and, with the right approach, I feel they can do well," Brian Ashton said. "We're part of that approach, not only in terms of resting players but playing players at the right times and in the right way."

"We have the responsibility of seeing that players are prepared properly. One of the messages the England management brought back from South Africa last summer was that we need to play with more ambition in our leagues. We can't have the limited games of rugby we often see in division one and expect to win a World Cup. We have to be far more flexible in our approach."

Ashton, as the coaching successor to Jack Rowell at Bath, may be expected to take

David Hands looks forward to the 1994-95 rugby union season which gets under way today

the broad perspective and speaks from an enviable strength in playing depth. Irrespective of the demands made by the national team, he believes his club capable of winning their fifth successive Courage Clubs Championship, the defence of which starts today against Bristol.

Mental strength has notoriously been Bath's most sustained advantage and here Ashton finds an echo from the other end of the Courage first division, indeed from the other end of the world. West Hartlepool, the second promoted team from last season, will be coached this season by Barry Taylor, once of Manly, Australia's under-21s, and the national teams of Western Samoa and Japan.

"I have to make the guys understand that they're in the

The return of Steve Pilgrim for Wasps after a one-year ban for playing in a rugby league trial is again delayed as he suffered a leg injury in training. His deputy against Gloucester today is John Uffon, 20, son of Derek, the former England footballer and Kent cricketer.

first division, that second division is yesterday," Taylor said. "To be competitive at this level, we have to change our way of thinking. The experience of two years ago in the first division is irrelevant to me. Either you are improving or deteriorating."

West begin their second coming in the top flight against Orrell and include for the first time the aptly named Phil New, the former Henley prop. The other promoted club, Sale, have already lost a complete second row even before they make their bow against Harlequins. Richard McCartney broke his ankle in training and Guy Parker broke his arm during the summer.

But the focus will be on the

Bath Recreation Ground, not only because Bristol fancy their prospects this season, but because that game will project a fresh image of the game through the powerful medium of television. Today the live showing on Sky, tomorrow at noon the return of a revamped *Rugby Special*. Technically, the two channels are in alliance; in practice they are two distinct teams competing for viewers. Sky offer their own, brand-new team of Stuart Barnes (on his old stamping ground), Jamie Salmon and Miles Harrison, while the BBC put a fresh face, John Inverdale (fate of Sky), at the head of a familiar team but produced by the independent company, Chrysalis Sport.

Both channels will offer greater depth to the game and the first round of the Pilkington Cup offers them a perfect opportunity. The county cup winners joust with some famous names, few more famous than London Welsh who form the second helping of a double-header at Esher since Old Deer Park is still in thrall to the cricket season.

Six years ago Gloucester Old Boys were among the denizens of Gloucestershire's third division. In a remarkable rise, they have lost only four league games out of 74 since and now perch just outside the national divisions—not so far, in fact, from London Welsh, their cup opponents today.

Since then they have lost Viv Wooley, their inspirational coach, to Gloucester and have received in return two former Gloucester players, Jeremy Bennett and Steve Baker, to sustain their distinguished record.

They, along with Old Albanians, Old Coventrians, Old Crossleyans and Sherborne, have not appeared in the Pilkington Cup before but they, and so many others, are now finding rugby to be a far more democratic game than they once believed.



John Hall, the Bath captain, holds aloft last season's championship trophy

THE GUIDE TO THE COURAGE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

Bath

It becomes tedious listing Bath for the league this year after year, but their record and, more particularly, their strength in depth demand it. This season, though, is more problematic than for some time since they must establish a new combination of half back nothing wrong at forward and some potent additions to the side force, but if the midfield fails to operate effectively—and this has become the most crucial area of a rugby match—then Bath will be vulnerable.

Departures: Retired — Stuart Barnes (scrum-half), Richard Hill (scrum-half), Gareth Crook (prop).

1994 record: League: first, Pilkington Cup: winners.

Gloucester

It becomes equally tedious suggesting Gloucester, the best-run club in the country, as the perennial bridesmaid, but nothing that has happened during the summer suggests that they can surpass Bath, their title more last season. A year later their young pack will be their much more experienced but unless Diocan Edwards proves a revelation, their back division lacks that extra ingredient required for a title to return to Welford Road.

Departures: Retired — Ian Smith, Director of rugby; Tony Rans.

Arrivals: Diocan Edwards (centre, Wakefield), Richard Stone (scrum-half, Bedford).

Leigh Marshall (prop, Bedford), Rob Field (lock, Coventry), Jimmy Hull (lock, Richmond), Barry Evans (wing, Coventry).

Departures: Laurence Boyle (centre, Harlequins), Alex Glasgow (lock, Coventry).

1994 record: League: second, Pilkington Cup: finalists.

Harlequins

There have been some interesting additions at the Shop most of whom need to prove themselves on the representative scene. Rory Jenkins had a whirl of the big time last season, Rob Kitchin is one of the country's most promising scrum halves and Jim Stapleton is due to be available in November. Their ambition may add the steel and consistency which Brian Moore will demand from the players but which the London club have, notoriously, lacked in previous league campaigns.

Departures: Retired — Keith Richardson, Director of rugby; none.

Arrivals: Jim Staples (full back, London Irish), Peter Mensah (centre, Old Billings), Laurence Boyle (centre, Leicester), Will Greenwood (centre, Wakefield), Rob Kitchin (scrum-half, Ealing), Chris Wright (scrum-half, Wasps), Gil Duffell (lock, Rosslyn Park), Rory Jenkins (flanker, London Irish).

Departures: Simon Dear (lock, Esher), Retired — Kent Bray (full back, Craig Lorton (scrum-half)).

1994 record: League: sixth, Pilkington Cup: semi-finalists.

Bristol

One of the most improved clubs in the country last season but will need a good start to re-establish the confidence they found earlier in theirs. The exposure to international rugby of Simon Shaw can do nothing but good for them but they

Northampton

Typed as dark horses last season the Saints failed to meet the expected criteria but will be fired by the energetic Tim Rodber and the appointment of Ian McGeechan as director of rugby. They had hoped to rejuvenate their front five forwards but have added only Martin Hynes to their strength, on the credit. Six this young back have now had a further year in the first division and Ian McGeechan can establish Nick Ball's best position, they may begin to live up to their promise.

Departures: Retired — David Palmer (hooker).

1994 record: League: fourth, Pilkington Cup: fifth round.

Wasps

Although they won the 1990 league title Wasps remain English rugby's nearly club, a tight, well-organised outfit lacking the dash of charisma and the ability — unless Huw Davies is playing — to turn backward matches around that so distinguishes Bath. They could well finish higher than 10th, indeed their league record suggests they should, and if they find that knack of scoring the points they play occasionally bring it, then they are capable of disturbing any team in the division.

Departures: Owen Ryan, Coach; Rob Smith, Director of rugby; none.

Arrivals: Steve Pater (wing, Rosslyn Park), Guy Gregory (scrum-half, Wokingham), Nick Popplewell (prop, Gloucestershire), Retired — Steve Pilgrim (full back).

Departures: Chris Wright (scrum-half, Harlequins), Retired — Chris Old (wing), Paul Clough (centre, Bedford).

1994 record: League: third, Pilkington Cup: fourth round.

Bullock (prop, Coventry), Chris Raymond (lock, Wasps), Mike Teeague (prop, & Wasps).

Departures: Derek Morgan (wing, Bristol), Paul Beach (scrum-half, Llanelli), John Davis (scrum-half, Llanelli), Rob Bester (lock, Esher).

1994 record: League: eighth, Pilkington Cup: quarter-finals.

Orrell

It is with trepidation that one groups the northern club at the bottom of the division, but history confirms their problems in retaining their status. Orrell must have a new front row and must re-establish themselves as a forward presence. They will not lack for experienced guidance: Sammy Southern, having just retired, becomes their chairman of rugby and Mike Siemon, recently England's assistant coach, their director of rugby and stand-off, will not let them. Sale have strengthened their squad with some talented youngsters but they will need to find their feet and may not get the chance to do so. They open their campaign against Harlequins, which will be as good a measure as any of how they may fare.

Departures: Retired — Paul Turner, Director of rugby; Brian Wilkeson.

Arrivals: Mark Apperson (wing, London Scottish), Dean Crompton (wing, London Scottish), Rob Liley (stand-off, Wakefield), Christian Stevenson (scrum-half, Wakefield), Rory Goodwin (scrum-half, Broughton Park), Mark Riddell (prop, Orrell), Neil Hastings (centre, Orrell), Charlie Vyvyan (prop, Wakefield).

Departures: Max Duthie (flanker, Rosslyn Park), Retired — Andy Macfarlane (prop, & Wasps).

1994 record: League: second division champions, Pilkington Cup: quarter-finals.

West Hartlepool

Had not restructured league arrangements demanded four relegated clubs in 1993, West Hartlepool might have started this year's first division status. Many players who helped them up then return, the better for the experience, and they will be formidable

difficult to beat on their own pitch.

Assuming he steers clear of injury, Rob Wainwright will be a significant addition to their pack and the Australian influence of Barry Taylor will be worth watching.

Departures: Retired — Paul Whitlock (prop).

1994 record: League: second division runners-up, Pilkington Cup: fifth round.

Sale

Whatever their fate, Sale will bring a touch of adventure to the first division. They do not carry the forward power to do otherwise and, anyway, Paul Turner, their director of rugby and stand-off, will not let them. Sale have strengthened their squad with some talented youngsters but they will need to find their feet and may not get the chance to do so. They open their campaign against Harlequins, which will be as good a measure as any of how they may fare.

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1994 record: League: second division champions, Pilkington Cup: quarter-finals.

England triumph in spite of Hall's defeat

ENGLAND overcame rain, thunder, lightning and Scotland to win the women's home internationals at Huddersfield yesterday. It was their third successive victory, although it was not achieved without a few alarms. Having won the foursomes 2-1, England needed only 2½ points from the six singles matches. But Julie Hall, the English champion, lost to Mhairi McKay and Emma Duggeby only halved with Jayne Ford. Fiona Brown was all square with Valerie Melvin playing the last, but won the 18th for a narrow victory. Despite trailing, Lisa Walton won the last two holes of her match to halve with Alison Rose, and Sandy Lambert and Kirsty Speak then tied things up for a 6-3 margin by winning their matches on the 17th.

Against Ireland, Wales flattered briefly but it was all deception, as they slid to another defeat and the wooden spoon. Only Vicki Thomas, the Welsh champion, and Denise Richards, the new cap, won their singles matches.

Former champions out

SNOOKER: The season began inauspiciously for Alex Higgins and Joe Johnson, both former world champions, when they went out of the £200,000 European Open qualifying competition at Blackpool yesterday (Phil Yates writes). Higgins, looking decidedly rusty after five months of competitive inactivity, was beaten 5-4 by Paul Canvey, from Leeds, while Johnson lost by the same score to Nick Dyson, of Wigan. Cliff Thorburn, the world champion in 1980, trailed Barry West 3-1, but the Canadian won the next four frames to prevail 5-3. Stephen Hendry, the world champion, opened his season 6,000 miles away, in Bangkok, where he beat Darren Morgan 7-4 in the Top Rank Classic.

Wilkinson meets Morley

BOWLS: Paul Wilkinson, of Long Eaton Town, and Brett Morley, of GPT, Nottingham, reached the final of the Sananger EBA singles championship at Worthing yesterday (Gordon Allan writes). Wilkinson, an under-25 international, beat Wynne Richards, twice champion in the 1980s, 21-18, and Morley beat Andrew Mantou, of Kingsthorpe, 21-16. Wilkinson is the first Derbyshire player and Morley the first Nottinghamshire player to reach the final. Both men had made startling recoveries in the quarter-finals after trailing 18-10 and 16-6 respectively.

Boardman races again

CYCLING: Chris Boardman, Britain's Olympic and double world champion, has his first race tomorrow since winning the world time trial in Sicily a fortnight ago (Peter Bryan writes). He heads the field in the Eddy Merckx Grand Prix, a 38-mile race against the clock in Brussels that Boardman won last year on his professional debut. On that occasion, Graeme Obree finished third, after a crash. He competes again tomorrow on a "conventional" machine. Obree was disqualified last month from the world pursuit championship, in which he was riding a home-made machine.

Beerbaum races clear

EQUESTRIANISM: Ludger Beerbaum, of Germany, riding It's Me, a talented eight-year-old mare, won the final class on the second day of competition on Thursday at the Spruce Meadows Masters show jumping in Calgary. Beerbaum, the Olympic champion, was two seconds quicker than his closest rival in the 13-horse jump-off, Rodrigo Pessoa, of Brazil, who was clear on Loro Piana Special Envoy. Neither John Whitaker nor Nick Skelton qualified for the jump-off after poor first-round scores from Everest Gammon and Everest Limited Edition respectively.

Chen keen to impress

TABLE TENNIS: Chen Xinhua, the England national champion, takes on Jean-Philippe Gatten, the French world champion, in the European Masters Cup in Hanover today. This is the last season of Chen's lucrative contract in the German Bundesliga and he wants to impress his club, Ocksenhausen, and to confirm that, aged 34, he is playing well enough to make an Olympic debut at Atlanta in 1996. If the adopted Yorkshireman qualifies from his group, he could face the world No 1 from Belgium, Jean-Michel Saive, with whom he had an outstanding match in April.

Swede shakes Baker

WINDSURFING: Nik Baker continues to lead the FBA world tour British championship at Brighton, but his dominance yesterday was shaken by Anders Bringdal, from Sweden, who beat the Briton in the finals of the third elimination heat. The Swede's victory in the slalom series made up for him falling off his board while leading the finals of the second elimination series earlier in the day, when the winds were gusting up to 35 knots. The tough conditions suited Baker more than Jamie Hawkins, his fellow Briton, who crashed out of the losers' final yesterday.

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'My response was that I would show them all what I am made of'

Atherton calm after summer storms



Alan Lee, cricket correspondent, talks to the England captain about a season of personal controversy

He is over the worst now, calm and reassured, no longer on the danger list. But it was a close-run thing. Michael Atherton looks back on it all as "the most emotional experience of my life" and, when he relates the full saga, you can understand why.

Accused in July of being both a cheat and a liar, his impeccable credentials to be the England cricket captain were shredded before his troubled eyes. Quite how close he came to despair, amid the harsh glare of disapproval, he is only now prepared to admit.

"For days, even weeks, afterwards, I couldn't get it out of my mind. I thought about it even in my sleep and it would wake me up. I get very self-conscious, anyway, and when I passed people in the street, I kept wondering if they were making sniping comments about me. It's fortunate that my response has always been that I will show them all what I am made of."

In the first days that followed the ball-tampering inquiry at Lord's, as his notoriety became factually initiated, Atherton told his closest friends that he would resign. A career of rich promise was about to perish. Geoffrey Boycott, the former England opener, told him that he must step down, but his father, Alan, the headmaster of a comprehensive school in Bolton, was chiefly responsible for talking him out of it.

He told his closest friends that he would resign

Looking back, though, Atherton is aware that the fact he had a choice at all was due to one man. Through his pre-emptive firing of his captain on the Sunday at Lord's, Raymond Illingworth, the chairman of selectors, took the matter out of the hands of the match referee, Peter Burge. Atherton suspects that Burge would have suspended him and that, inevitably, would have brought his sacking. "Raymond saved my job," he said. "If he had wanted another captain then, he could have got one."

"As this summer has gone on, my relationship with Raymond has got better and better. The chairman and I are much closer than we were before. I don't hesitate to ring him at home now, if there is something on my mind."

On the fateful Saturday afternoon at Lord's, there was nothing on Atherton's mind except the problem of the South Africa batsmen taking

control of the first Test. When he reached in his pocket to dry his fingers on the dirt he had put there for the purpose, it did not occur to him how the image would appear to millions of television viewers. "I wasn't thinking about the people in the ground or about those watching television. My thoughts were crowded with who should bowl and how. That is how it should be."

"There were five overs of the evening left when Graham Gooch ran up to me. He had been fielding beneath the England balcony and a message had been passed to him that I was wanted at a ball-tampering inquiry. Graham said it must be about their ball because ours hadn't done a thing. We actually had a laugh about it."

"It was only the next morning, when I saw the newspapers, that I realised how serious it was. Because I had not told Mr Burge the full facts, I knew it would cease to be about ball-tampering and become an issue about my integrity. I saw the ramifications all too clearly. I'd like to have turned the clock back, but it was too late."

In the dramatic press conference that evening, Atherton was as uncomfortable as I have known him. "I was upset we had been beaten, for one thing. But it was also a hot, crowded and unfriendly environment. I felt very uneasy. I would try to do it differently, given the chance, and take time out to calm down. Most of my mistakes with the media have been made when I am emotional straight after a game."

But if he is prepared to concede his own errors of public relations, Atherton remains indignant about his experiences of press intrusion. He recounts that they began when he was on holiday in Tobago after the Caribbean tour and a photographer, hidden behind a tree, took pictures of him and his girlfriend on a beach. They returned, in more concerned fashion, in the days that followed Lord's.

"They were camped outside my house and I couldn't go home for a week. Then one paper tailed me to the Lake District. I had to keep changing hotels to shake them off. That kind of intrusion I will never come to terms with."

As the pressure built upon him, Atherton met his close friend and Lancashire teammate, Neil Fairbrother. "I



It was problems with the ball at Lord's, rather than with the bat, that threatened to end Atherton's promising career as England captain

wanted a quiet drink and a chat. I ended up telling him I was going to sack it. "Geoffrey Boycott is a trusted advisor to me, and he had already told me to resign for my own sake. But I spoke to my father on the phone each day and he was calculating, calm and encouraging. He told me not to back down, or that would be all I was ever remembered for."

The tension followed Atherton to Headingley, and the next Test. He scored 99 — "probably the most important, pressure innings of my life" — but still his problems were not over. At the Oval last month, he offended many by leaving

the field 30 yards ahead of the batsmen on the Thursday evening. The next day, Burge fired him for "disrespect" when he was given out leg-before. "I know it was wrong to storm off the field. I was furious with Devon Malcolm for the way he had bowled at me. No. 11. We have to show emotions sometimes, but perhaps it wasn't the right way. Devon took nine wickets on the Saturday, but the air was blue between us on the Thursday night."

The second fine, for a piling excess of body language on being given out first ball, has turned out well for Atherton. "I was angry when it

happened. It even briefly crossed my mind that I might be playing my last Test, but once the players got behind me I was never really close to quitting. We won the game, which helped, and I crossed the public railing behind me." More than 500 letters have reinforced that message.

Atherton may have been secure, but he was not above further mistakes, as he showed when failing to tell his friend, Angus Fraser, that he would not be touring Australia. "Angus is upset and told me so when I did get to speak to him later. I had not planned to phone anyone."

did not think it would be necessary. But I am sad about this because no one could have fought harder for Angus through the summer than I did."

That Atherton has not found the job easy can be gauged by his form for Lancashire. "I averaged 50 for them before I became the England captain. Since my appointment, I have averaged about 12."

"It's made me very uncomfortable in the dressing-room and I accept that it is entirely my fault. But there are times in county cricket when the spark just isn't there. I am tired. I need a rest, but it is still something I must work on."

This week, seeking strength and consolation, he watched the video of his courageous two-hour "defiance" of slightly-pitched bowling in the first Test at Kingston in February, an innings that earned him the respect of every West Indian.

Respect has almost slipped through his fingers several times since, but Atherton has clutched it like a juggled slip catch.

"I don't want to be forever looking over my shoulder, clinging on to this job. But the more I do it, and the more that happens to me, the more determined I am to make a success of it."

Trescothick presses claims for further promotion

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

EDGBASTON (second day of four): India, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 325 runs behind England

MARCUS Trescothick, Somerset's 18-year-old left-handed opening batsman, advanced his cause considerably yesterday, making 206 from 233 balls in front of English cricket's brains trust — Raymond Illingworth, Keith Fletcher and Micky Stewart — assembled to observe his innings against India in the third under-19 international. His score was the third highest at this level.

As his county were being dismissed at Canterbury for 108, Trescothick was punishing some shoddy Indian bowling. England, who began the day with half their wickets down and only 21 on the board, were allowed to make another 354 before the Indians accounted for the other half. Trescothick's share included 31 fours, one all run, and three sixes.

Making a double-century is not necessarily a prelude to recognition, as Matthew Downman knows full well. Last year he made 267 against West Indies at Hove. This season, before injury restricted him, he was unable to claim a regular batting place in the Nottinghamshire side. Apparently he is not ready for county cricket, at least not among the all-singing, all-dancing cast of bobby-dazzlers at Trent Bridge.

It is axiomatic that until counties give their younger players more chances to fail, the Test team will find it more difficult to succeed. Stewart, relishing his role as the director of coaching, believes the tide is turning.

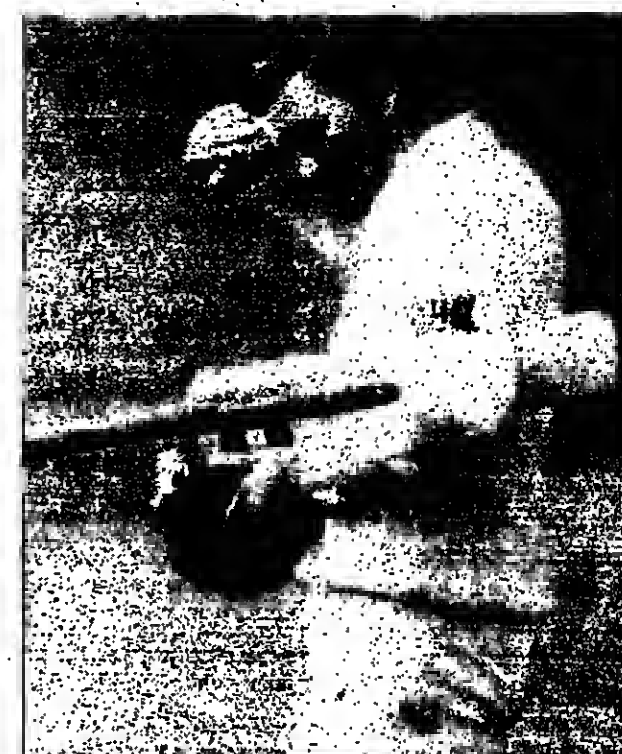
He feels that, however moderate the bowling yesterday, Trescothick will learn much from his experience this year. "For someone who may go on to play Test cricket, his apprenticeship is much better for playing 14 championship matches for Somerset and three for England at this level."

Two members of this year's side, Michael Vaughan and Richard Johnson, are going to India this winter with the A team. Vaughan, of Yorkshire, got the nod ahead of Trescothick, and he looks the classier player. Johnson took all ten Derbyshire wickets in July for Middlesex.

Both are imaginative choices: if one includes Glen Chapple, the Lancashire seamer and swing bowler, who is also an A tourist, then Stewart can point to three men who have made a swift transition from the junior level to the "shadow cabinet".

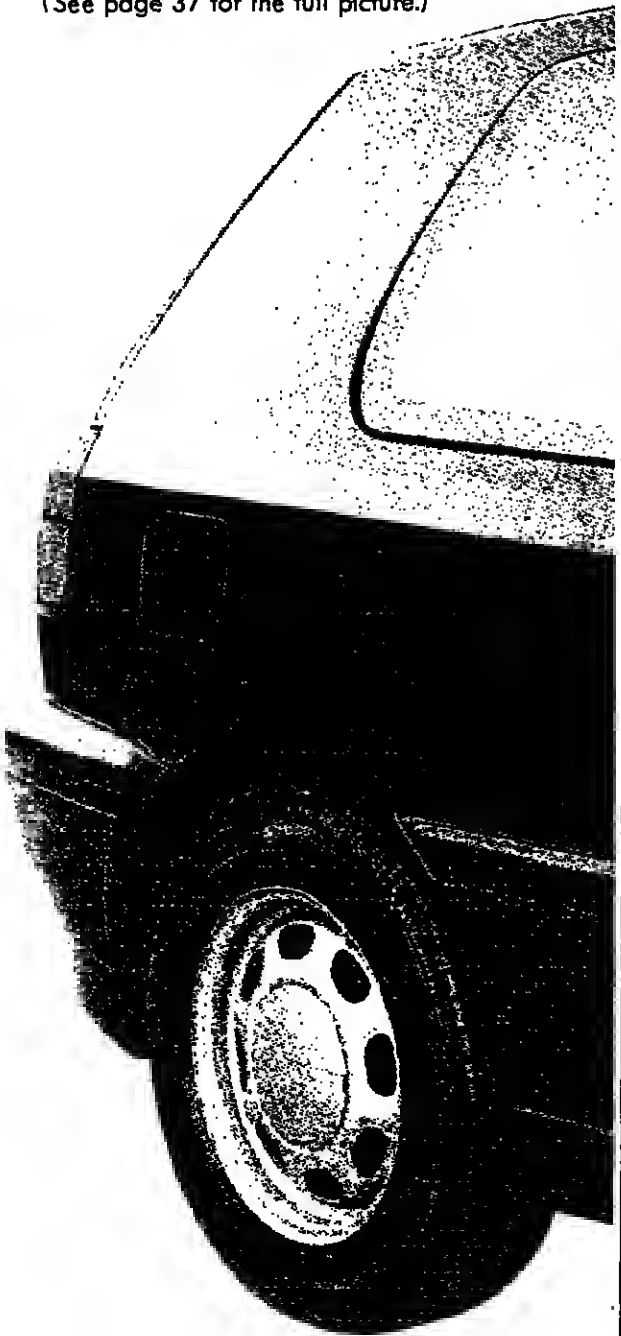


Illingworth and Atherton at the Lord's press conference



Trescothick's 206 was the third highest at this level

Who says you can't afford a Golf?
(See page 37 for the full picture.)



Britannia Assurance county championship
Second day of four

Durham v Lancashire
STOCKTON, Lancashire (2nd day of four): Durham 141 by ten wickets

DURHAM: First Innings 159 (J Wood 51, 10 Austin 3 for 30)
Second Innings
J Wood 51, 10 Austin 3 for 30

Lancashire: First Innings 111
J Wood 51, 10 Austin 3 for 30

Lancashire: Second Innings 111
J Wood 51, 10 Austin 3 for 30

Lancashire: Third Innings 111
J Wood 51, 10 Austin 3 for 30

Lancashire: Fourth Innings 111
J Wood 51, 10 Austin 3 for 30

Lancashire: Fifth Innings 111
J Wood 51, 10 Austin 3 for 30

Lancashire: Sixth Innings 111
J Wood 51, 10 Austin 3 for 30

Derbyshire v Essex
DERBY, Derbyshire: First Innings
P O Bowler 2 for 10

Derbyshire: Second Innings
P O Bowler 2 for 10

Derbyshire: Third Innings
P O Bowler 2 for 10

Derbyshire: Fourth Innings
P O Bowler 2 for 10

Derbyshire: Fifth Innings
P O Bowler 2 for 10

Derbyshire: Sixth Innings
P O Bowler 2 for 10

Derbyshire: Seventh Innings
P O Bowler 2 for 10

Derbyshire: Eighth Innings
P O Bowler 2 for 10

Derbyshire: Ninth Innings
P O Bowler 2 for 10

Glamorgan v Worcestershire
CARDIFF, Glamorgan: First Innings
G A Hirst 1 for 10

Glamorgan: Second Innings
G A Hirst 1 for 10

Glamorgan: Third Innings
G A Hirst 1 for 10

Glamorgan: Fourth Innings
G A Hirst 1 for 10

Glamorgan: Fifth Innings
G A Hirst 1 for 10

Glamorgan: Sixth Innings
G A Hirst 1 for 10

Glamorgan: Seventh Innings
G A Hirst 1 for 10

Glamorgan: Eighth Innings
G A Hirst 1 for 10

Glamorgan: Ninth Innings
G A Hirst 1 for 10

Gloucestershire v Middlesex
LORDS, Gloucestershire: First Innings
LORDS: Gloucestershire, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, need 222 runs to avoid an innings defeat against Middlesex

Gloucestershire: Second Innings
LORDS: Gloucestershire, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, need 222 runs to avoid an innings defeat against Middlesex

Gloucestershire: Third Innings
LORDS: Gloucestershire, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, need 222 runs to avoid an innings defeat against Middlesex

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Gloucestershire: Ninth Innings
LORDS: Gloucestershire, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, need 222 runs to avoid an innings defeat against Middlesex

Yorkshire v Surrey
SCARBOROUGH, Surrey: First Innings
SCARBOROUGH: Surrey, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 170 runs behind Yorkshire

Yorkshire: Second Innings
SCARBOROUGH: Surrey, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 170 runs behind Yorkshire

Yorkshire: Third Innings
SCARBOROUGH: Surrey, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 170 runs behind Yorkshire

Yorkshire: Fourth Innings
SCARBOROUGH: Surrey, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 170 runs behind Yorkshire

Yorkshire: Fifth Innings
SCARBOROUGH: Surrey, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 170 runs behind Yorkshire

Yorkshire: Sixth Innings
SCARBOROUGH: Surrey, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 170 runs behind Yorkshire

Yorkshire: Seventh Innings
SCARBOROUGH: Surrey, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 170 runs behind Yorkshire

Yorkshire: Eighth Innings
SCARBOROUGH: Surrey, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 170 runs behind Yorkshire

Yorkshire: Ninth Innings
SCARBOROUGH: Surrey, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 170 runs behind Yorkshire

Chapple justifies selection

TWO of the more surprising choices for this winter's England A tour to India achieved career-best performances yesterday to justify selectorial recognition of their potential (Geoffrey Wheeler writes).

Lancashire's fast bowler, Glen Chapple, took six for 48 as Durham were bowled out for 111 and beaten by ten wickets inside two days at Stockton. The Lancashire wicketkeeper, Paul Nixon, hit 130 to keep his side in control against Hampshire at Grace Road and improve their prospects of picking up prize-money of £24,250.

Lancashire were in trouble at 90 for five when Nixon

went in but he dominated a succession of useful partnerships as they recovered to 347 for nine, a lead of 122.

Somerset were involved in the most astonishing collapse of the season at Canterbury. Resuming at 88 for one they were all out for 108, nine wickets falling for 20 runs in 14.2 overs, with Tim Wren posting a career best six for 48.

Kent showed there was nothing wrong with the pitch by replying with 293 for three. Carl Hooper racing to his fifth century of the season in 112 balls. He and Neil Taylor put on 200 in 37 overs, 71 in the final ten of a day Somerset will not remember fondly.

John Emburey claimed the 1500th wicket of his career as Gloucestershire followed on 314 behind Middlesex at Lord's while, at Scarborough, Darren Gough, of Yorkshire, produced the kind of fast bowling spell that England will be hoping to see in Australia. He took five for five in 29 deliveries after Surrey had begun their innings with a partnership of 159 between Darren Bicknell and Mark Butcher. When Gough pitched the ball up, he was devastating.

Graham Gooch outlasted eight partners while scoring 76 as Essex were dismissed for 180 by the Derbyshire seamers.

ENGLAND UNDER-19: First Innings
M P Vaughan b Seel 44
M E Trescothick c Drenth b Sangha 205
A C Hirst c Seel b Sangha 14
C Schofield c Anst Kumer b Siddiqui 3
M A Bates b Sangha 54
A C Miles b Sangha 54
S O Thomas b Sangha 54
S O Thomas b Sangha 54
Total (64.5 overs) 381

ENGLAND UNDER-19: Second Innings
J Singh not out 19
M A Bates c Drenth b Sangha 14
A C Miles c Drenth b Sangha 14
S O Thomas c Drenth b Sangha 14
S O Thomas c Drenth b Sangha 14
Total (11.5 overs) 58

INDIA UNDER-19: First Innings
J Singh not out 19
M A Bates c Drenth b Sangha 14
A C Miles c Drenth b Sangha 14
S O Thomas c Drenth b Sangha 14
S O Thomas c Drenth b Sangha 14
Total (11.5 overs) 58

INDIA UNDER-19: Second Innings
J Singh not out 19
M A Bates c Drenth b Sangha 14
A C Miles c Drenth b Sangha 14
S O Thomas c Drenth b Sangha 14
S O Thomas c Drenth b Sangha 14
Total (11.5 overs) 58

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SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10 1994

Celtic sign O'Donnell as McStay misses trip

By Kevin McCarron

FOR today at least, Celtic will have the services of a £1.75 million understudy. Their captain, Paul McStay, is suspended for the trip to meet Patrick Thistle, but his place will be taken by the club's record signing, Phil O'Donnell, who yesterday completed his move from Motherwell.

In reality, however, the 22-year-old is expected to prove much more than a deputy. O'Donnell, who has been capped once, was restricted by a recurring groin injury last season, but should develop into an player of genuine international calibre.

When he first emerged, comparisons were made with Bryan Robson. While he does not yet possess that level of expertise, there is a similar dynamism. The Celtic manager, Tommy Burns, expects a better balance in midfield now that play-makers such as Paul McStay and John Collins will be complemented by a team-mate capable of running beyond defences.

Burns admitted that he has

allow the manager, Alex McLeish, to move into the transfer market. "People are saying it is bad timing. I know it is bad timing," McLeish said. "I want to reassure our fans that I tried to keep Phil here with the Uefa Cup tie coming up."

"But the speculation about Celtic's interest had got to him in the last fortnight and, in the end, he said he wouldn't do himself justice if he stayed. He leaves here without any bad feeling. He had a good rapport with our fans."

"When he signed his last contract, he made an agreement with the manager, Tommy McLean, and the chairman that if there was a big offer for him he would be allowed to consider it. That was something which persuaded him to sign a long-term deal with us."

"Now we've got a big fee, but I think Celtic have got a good deal. I can't let the money gather dust and we've been drawing up names of potential signings, but we've not done anything concrete."

For the first time in several years, Rangers find themselves overshadowed by glamorous news from Celtic Park, but a little obscurity may suit them. The team has already been knocked out of the European Cup and Coca-Cola Cup and needs to restore order. They meet another side in difficulties, Heart of Midlothian, at Ibrox tomorrow.

Rangers now accept that Basile Boli, whom they bought for £2.7 million in the summer, did not make the derogatory remarks attributed to him in newspaper articles. An incident on Thursday, in which he kicked a photographer's car, however, may demonstrate that he is not in the right frame of mind to play this weekend.

Boli had already looked ill-at-ease in his first few games for the club, and the whole affair of the questionable quotations may have a lasting effect on his attempt to settle with the Scottish champions.

Rangers, who have been vulnerable in defence, would benefit greatly, however, from the emergence of a commanding presence in Boli.

Not everyone has to deal with the difficulties of assimilating an international star. Hibernian, who play Aberdeen at home today, were unable to make any signing whatsoever in the summer, yet still lead the premier division.

Observing the tumult at Ibrox, they may, for the moment at least, be glad to be staid.

St Johnstone have been ordered to pay Dunfermline £200,000 for the midfield player, George O'Boyle, by a transfer tribunal. They had offered £100,000.



McStay: suspended today

been attempting to winkle O'Donnell, his first signing, out of Fir Park ever since he was appointed to the Celtic post in June. The deal combines considerable largesse with ruthlessness.

Celtic have already handed over the entire £1.75 million, but had also applied pressure to ensure that Motherwell would not insist on keeping O'Donnell for their Uefa Cup matches with Borussia Dortmund. The acquisition shows that Fergus McCann, who took control of the club in March, will keep his promise to provide funds for top-quality signings.

Motherwell, who visit Dundee United today, were faced with the need to pay for the new stand that will complete the redevelopment of Fir Park and could not sustain their initial resistance to the Celtic overtures.

Although the Lanarkshire club's supporters are incensed by the sale and its timing, some of the money raised will



Colin Montgomerie grimaces as his birdie attempt at the 17th fails in the second round of the European Open. The Scot, who led by one shot after the first round, now trails David Gifford by one. Report and scores, page 39

Gillingham's grief spills out after defeat

FROM CRAIG LORD IN ROME

NICK Gillingham broke down last night after finishing fourth in the 200 metres breaststroke at the seventh world swimming championships. It was not the result that had prompted his deep emotion, but the loss of his father, Frank, who died earlier this year and to whom Gillingham had dedicated his Commonwealth title two weeks ago.

His emotion stood in stark

contrast to the joy of Australians after two world records and titles went their way, courtesy of Kieren Perkins and Samantha Riley.

Gillingham, 27, of Birmingham, finished just outside the medals in a time of 2min 14.25sec, well outside his best of 2min 11.29sec. He had not grieved properly for his father until he had fulfilled his promise to win the Commonwealth title.

"I miss him so much. Basic-

cally, for 15 years I swam for him and my mum. I raced with my heart for him. That's gone now. I have to find out why I want it. I don't know anymore. Until that day, winning maybe difficult. I've got to find the hunger again."

Gillingham will take a month's break before starting his build-up to the Olympic Games of Atlanta in 1996. He will not compete at the European championships next year, but was not concerned that he would be left behind

by those younger than he. "Breaststroke swimming has stood still for the last two years now," he said. "I'm still the fastest over 200 in the world this year and I don't see why I should give up."

The race was won by Norbert Rózsa, of Hungary, in 2min 12.81sec, from Eric Wunderlich, of the United States, in 2min 12.87sec and Karoly Guttler, of Hungary, in 2min 14.12sec.

Results, page 39

Club versus country controversy rages on

Rob Hughes, football correspondent, on the impact of a growing international calendar

ONE month into the football season and already the signs of staleness are beginning to show. The freshness of the World Cup is in danger of being replaced by ceaseless club versus country demands which require star performers to be in two places at once.

The planners seem afflicted by illogicality. Why else was the entire FA Carling Premiership programme sacrificed last weekend so that England could engage in friendly play against the United States? Why else should Manchester United have tomorrow the first of three demanding games in six days — against Leeds United, IFK Gothenburg and Liverpool — that could determine United's season and establish England's standing in the European game?

It seems that the administrators are facing a Rubik's Cube of human resources. Mike Smith, the manager of Wales, is about to demand that the Wales players, among them Ryan Giggs and Mark Hughes, of Manchester United, be released for the full five days of training that Fifa laws

stipulate are mandatory for competitive international matches. He is in order to do so, for Wales face Moldova in their next European championship qualifying match on October 12. Moldova are one of those new European nations who, released from Soviet constraints, are gaining in football ambition.

However, Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, is just as adamant that he will not release his players for United's match against Sheffield Wednesday on October 8. Stalemate, increasingly stale minds and limbs of footballers, and so far a stale response from the administrators.

It might seem to some that, given the fact that United possess no fewer than seven nationalities in their squad, the riches of Britain's richest club are creating problems from within. It might seem, indeed, that Ferguson was precipitous in selling Dion

Dublin to Coventry City yesterday, selling a player who is one of his English options when it comes to the European Cup.

But Ferguson argues that £2 million for a forward who has started barely a handful of matches since joining United for £1 million in 1992 is a compelling piece of business. Ferguson adds that he felt it his duty to release Dublin to first-team football elsewhere, and although many believe this is the prelude to him buying Dean Holdsworth, of Wimbledon, Ferguson reminds us that he has Paul Scholes, "a marvellous young player pushing for a first-team place."

So, it is about youth and opportunity? It is also about man management in a European scene where the history and geography is changing with bewildering speed, and where there are now 48 countries entered in European qualifying games for the 1996

championships in England — qualifying games that will demand 11 Wednesday dates over the next 15 months.

If Smith and the managers of Denmark, Russia, Ireland and the others insist on their rights, this means a total of 55 playing days lost to their clubs. In addition, there are the Africans playing here — Daniel Amokachi, of Everton, and Peter Ndlovu, of Coventry, who must answer their countries' calls in the African Nations Cup.

It is an insatiable programme as the satellite television demand for football seems to grow. The players may be considered thoroughbreds, but they will be worked until they feel like carthorses, their sinews stretched to breaking point, their bones aching like middle-aged men when really they should be in their athletic prime.

It is by no means a Manchester United or a British problem in isolation. In Italy last weekend a full programme of league matches was played. The Italy players themselves were on call and 11



Dublin: Coventry bound

of them, excluding Roberto Baggio, who pulled a muscle, were then humbled by the 1-1 draw in Slovenia.

Yet Italy, joint favourites with England to win the European championship, had no choice but to release other nations' players in their clubs. And so it goes. The emerging nations from the former Soviet Union, the former Czechoslovakia and the former Yugoslavia are hungry for glory on the playing field. The leading clubs, who pay their players

£10,000 and more a week, can only beg for time off once the national team results are going their way, or wheel and deal, as Internazionale did last week, releasing Wim Jonk for Holland's match in Luxembourg, but retaining Dennis Bergkamp for Italian league duty.

It is not only the playing that wears them. Johan Cruyff explained Barcelona's 1-0 defeat to Leeds towards the end of last season by saying: "I had all 11 players involved in World Cup qualifiers — ten came home celebrating and we didn't need deep tests, we needed alcohol tests. Stojichkov, for one, would have failed."

It is not only Manchester United, the Premiership and Wales who are heading for confrontation. The contest will be between international calls and doctors' sicknotes, some of which will be genuine excuses for absences. The human body, even that of a millionaire player, can take so much.

Cottee's return, page 39
Popescu joins Spurs, page 39

Struggle to stay among elite will guarantee fight to finish

By Alan Lorrimer

HAVING approved the plans to streamline the McEwan's national league next season, Scotland's rugby union clubs must now face the consequences of their decision-making when the championship starts today. The most significant of these is that any club seeking first division status next season must ensure that it finishes in the top eight. Or, looking at it from the other perspective, the clubs finishing in ninth to fourteenth places at the end of this season will find themselves in division two next season.

It is the scrap to make the cut that will provide the real fascination in the McEwan's league and which should ensure that meaningful competition is maintained right up to the wire.

The clubs know that membership of the premier group is bound to have implications for sponsorship and for the ability to attract the best players, aspects of club survival which are not entirely unconnected.

Moreover — as has been demonstrated in England — once the gap between the "haves" and "have-nots" begins to widen, it becomes more difficult for those clubs left behind to claw their way upwards. That may be a high price to pay but Scottish club rugby — shown last weekend to be lagging hopelessly behind leading English and Irish clubs — now needs much greater concentration of talent to improve. It should achieve that objective next season but, with the World Cup dominating the rugby calendar in 1995, one cannot help feeling that change has happened at least one year too late.

Any championship, however, must focus on potential winners. Melrose have been the dominant force in Scottish rugby over recent seasons having won four titles in the past five years. Jim Telfer, who has been the power behind the Borderers' success and who this season hands over the coaching responsibility to Rob Moffat, argues that Melrose should never have won four titles. "Far too many Scottish clubs are still training only twice a week. In a sense we are too introverted in Scotland. We need to look outwards, to see what is hap-

pening elsewhere," Telfer said.

All the same, a fifth McEwan's title for Melrose would appear to be likely. Quite apart from their renowned application to training, Melrose possess the personnel and this season have a strengthened squad with the return of Scott Aitken from Watsonians and Derek Bain from Australia.

Bain is at full back today for Melrose in their opening league match against Currie, who had the unfortunate experience at the end of last season of a 70-point drubbing by the champions.

Currie will find it hard to finish in the top eight as will newly-promoted Dundee High School FP who play an Edinburgh Academicals side that had promised much in the past few seasons but never quite delivered. This season Academicals have a fresh infusion of talented players which should more than compensate for the loss of Rob Wainwright and Derrick Patterson to West Hartlepool.

The main challenge to Melrose could come from Boroughmuir who, after a poor start in their league campaign last season, finished strongly and confirmed their form by winning the Alton Cup. Boroughmuir play Glasgow High/Kelvin side, another club which has recruited well over the summer and which looks strong enough to be in the top eight.

Others in the top eight? Heriot's FP have the pedigree and will be likely to stay up despite showing inconsistency, while their opponents today, Hawick, after seeming to lose their way, may just make the cut. One of Watsonians and Stewart's Melville FP should also be in the leading group and judging by past form Stirling County have the strength to stay with the elite. One should have included Gala automatically but their beginning-of-season form and the absence of Gregor Townsend now casts doubts on their ability to finish in the top eight. This, a unique season in Scottish rugby, is indeed going to provide sustained interest.

World stage looms, page 37
English club guide, page 37



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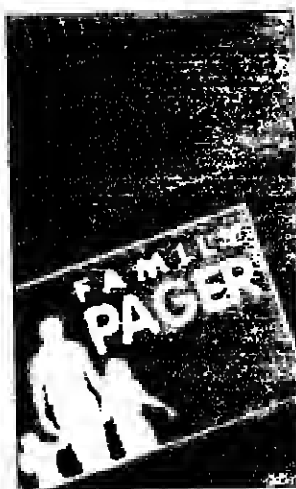
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WEEKEND

MY RAGE AGAINST THE RABIES LAW

By Michael Kallenbach



The anxiety set in when the ferry berthed at Dover. Officials directed my car not to leave until all the other passengers had disembarked. There were horrible pangs of separation churning my stomach as the Black Maria labelled "Quarantine" was directed to the loading area.

"Don't let your dogs touch British soil," warned the stern official from the ferry company. Funny, I thought to myself, they had been in exactly the same car, in the same spot, since we left France just an hour earlier. There the dogs were legal, but now that the ferry had docked, in British waters adjacent to British soil, the law would be broken if their tiny paws were to touch the ground.

After 16 years out of the country, I had briefly considered smuggling the dogs across to England. But such thoughts were quickly eradicated. Kennel owners seem to delight in telling stories to emphasise their warnings about the penalties. My doubts about the need for our strict quarantine laws made little impact on them. Several kennels proudly display posters urging the public to do whatever they can in their power "to keep Britain rabies free". Under the current laws, an owner who refuses to put his dog behind bars for six months could face double that penalty himself and/or an unlimited fine. His animal would be destroyed.

My two miniature schnauzers, Shpilkes and Snaffles, who have travelled the length of the United States, and to Germany and back without a hint of bother, were obviously confused and disoriented as we parted. The handover went smoothly and quickly. I made sure their favourite toys went with them — I also threw in an old jersey for comfort — as they were put into the cages that were to transfer them to the heart of Gloucestershire, and a fine kennel I had carefully selected several months earlier.

Sunglasses concealed the tears streaming down my cheeks as I drove on to the dockside preparing myself for six ghastly months without the animals I have come to depend on — their friendly tails, barks and licks that greeted me so many times during the past six years, whatever my mood.

Children at boarding schools have exerts: the dogs have no such privileges. Owners are permitted regular visits at prescribed times but not on Sundays or public holidays. Andrew Warner, the owner of the kennels I selected for Shpilkes and Snaffles, was being honest when he said that visiting would be more painful for the owner than the dogs and he advised strongly against it. After all, dogs are said not to have a sense of time, and seeing their owner again would create the impression that they were about to be collected for a ride back home. I listened to his wisdom and have decided not to visit or send

Continued on page 3, col 1

LIVE '94

THE CONSUMER ELECTRONICS SHOW

EARL'S COURT • LONDON • SEPTEMBER 20-25 1994

TICKETS ON THE DOOR OR AT ANY UNDERGROUND STATION

Planning an evening out, or a day with the family? *Times* critics select the best entertainment around

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

EDUARDO PAOLOZZI: Ever the stormy petrel of British sculpture, Sir Eduardo Paolozzi, RA, is still not settled in his ways. This show to mark his 70th birthday consists of an open-air display of his public sculpture and an indoor section of screenprints, drawings and plaster models. The earliest work is *Horse's Head*, 1947, the most recent some studies for his Royal Bank of Scotland commission *The Wealth of Nations* last year. The changes of style, from neo-primitivism to Pop Art and on to the recent disguised self-portraits, are fascinating.

YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE PARK: Bretton Hall, West Bretton, Wakefield, West Yorkshire (01924 830579), daily, grounds 10am-5pm, pavilion gallery 11am-5pm. Gallery show until Oct 2, open-air display until spring 1995.

SHUBENACADIE: Tom Forrestal's style can be regarded as very conservative or very modish depending on how you view an elegant and meticulous realism: he is particularly noted for his anachronistic skill with watercolours. The Shubenacadie Canal runs near Halifax, Nova Scotia. In this series of watercolours Forrestal documents some of its historic features and evokes the atmosphere of life around the waterways.

NATIONAL WATERWAYS MUSEUM: The Docks, Gloucester (0452 318054), daily 10am-5pm, until Oct 23. Museum admission £3.95, concessions £2.95.

FILMS

Geoff Brown

WYATT EARP (12): Ten minutes over three hours in length, this latest depiction of the legendary lawman is clearly designed to



Kevin Costner: glacial

impress. Brooding photography sets the tone, and scarcely a smile flickers across Kevin Costner's face as the despairing widower finds his feet with a badge and a gun, enforcing order in Dodge City and Tombstone. Lawrence Kasdan's epic is always handsome, and usually intelligent: though Costner's glacial performance and a wobbly attitude towards its hero (man of myth or revenge-driven killer?) diminish the film. With Dennis Quaid, Gene Hackman.

ALMA BAKER STREET (17): 935 9772 Fulham Road (071-370 2630) Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Coronet (071-727 6705) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332) Warner (071-437 4343)

MICHAEL POWELL AND EMERIC PRESSBURGER SEASON: Until September 22 the Barbican Centre celebrates the glorious odd couple of British cinema: the English director with the continental flair, and the Hungarian-born writer who tried to be more English than anyone. Apart, their achievements were patchy; together, they created extraordinary, audacious, poetic films. The 14 titles, covering most of their work in the 1940s and 50s, include *A Matter of Life and Death*, *The Red Shoes*, *The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp* and the uniquely quirky *A Canterbury Tale*. All are presented in new prints prepared by the British Film Institute.

Barbican (071-639 8891)

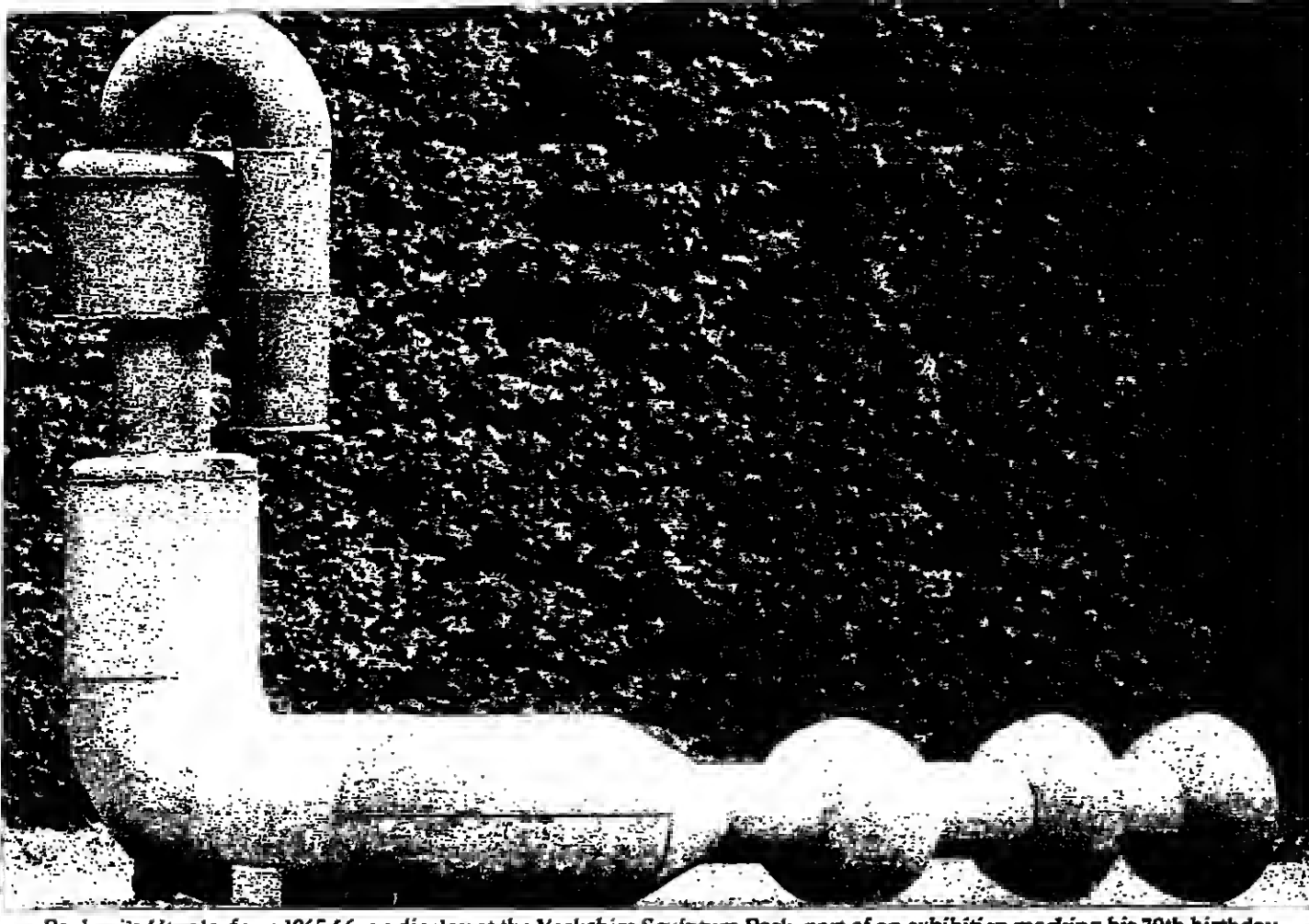
• More films, page 6

GALLERIES

Richard Cork

STAN DOUGLAS: In his first London one-man show, Douglas skillfully recreates the styles of the past. *Pursuit*, *Fear*, *Catharsis* presents an unsolved criminal case of 1929 as a melodrama from the silent cinema. Other works simulate 1960s news bulletins and a "free jazz" performance shot in the style of a late-night TV programme. The emphasis is on what Douglas calls "failed utopias and obsolete technologies". But he finds no consolation today. A series of video *Television Spots and Monodramas*, made for TV, present fragmented urban scenes and share a mood akin to Samuel Beckett's bleakest plays.

IMPRESSIONISM FOR ENGLAND: The most pleasurable show in London brings together the collection formed by Samuel

Paolozzi's *Utopia*, from 1965-66, on display at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, part of an exhibition marking his 70th birthday

Courtauld during the interwar years. Without his generosity, the National Gallery would not possess masterpieces by Seurat, Van Gogh and Cézanne. His private collection was equally distinguished. The paintings he bequeathed to the Courtauld Institute Galleries are now reunited with his other pictures. Manet's *A Bar At The Folies Bergère* makes us regret his premature death soon after painting it. And the Gauguins are the finest in England. Renoir is also seen at his best, while Cézanne presides with a wallful of masterful images.

Courtauld Institute Galleries (071-873 2526) until Sept 25.

DANCE

John Percival

CINDERELLA: Scottish Baller's production by its founder-director, Peter Darrell. Is set to an attractive score prepared by Bramwell Tovey from music by Rossini including not only his opera *La Cenerentola* but several other operas besides, and many of his piano pieces. Disguises complicate the story of true love, but all comes well in the end. After its run in Glasgow, the ballet will visit Aberdeen, Hull, Edinburgh and Newcastle.

Theatre Royal, Hope Street, Glasgow (041-332 9000), until Sat 17 (except Sun) at 7.15pm, matinees Sat and Thurs 15 at 2.15pm.

HIGHLAND FLING: Matthew Bourne has revived his comic adaptation of the old ballet *La Sylphide*. He offers a modern version set in present-day Glasgow, featuring the lavatories of a disco, a high-rise flat and a moonlit rubbish dump, besides acres of tarmac and a hero who takes a large pair of scissors to his sylph's wings to prevent her from flying away. Danced by Bourne's group Adven-

tures in Motion Pictures. Its autumn tour includes one night tomorrow in Richmond, Surrey, before visiting Treorchy, Taunton, Gloucester, High Wycombe, Horsham, Chichester, Windsor and Exeter.

Richmond Theatre, The Green, Richmond, Surrey (081-940 0088), Sun 11.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

CLEO LAINE: These are busy times for the diva from Southall. Apart from publishing her autobiography, *Cleo*, and releasing a new recording, *Blue and Sentimental*, she and her husband John Dankworth are celebrating the 25th anniversary of their handsome Buckinghamshire concert venue, The Stables. The 200-seat theatre has provided a home for a catholic assortment of jazz, cabaret, pop and classical artists. *Great Singers... Great Songs*, tonight's gala show hosted by Ned Sherrin, caters to middle-of-the-road tastes. As well as the Laine-Dankworth partnership, the jazz fraternity is represented by George Shearing, Elaine Delmar and Marion Montgomery.

Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8900), Tonight, 7.30pm.

PETER KING: Whenever a list is made of Europe's outstanding alto saxophonists, the heirs to Charlie Parker, Peter King's name can be guaranteed to be close to the top. If anything, his cascading, bird-like solos have grown even more assured with the passing years. Regularly on call with assorted high-class big bands, he was the obvious choice to invoke the ghost of Parker in the tribute band put together by Stones drummer Charlie Watts. A few years ago, King

caused some consternation by dabbling in the fusion market with a likeable crossover disc. Nevertheless, bebop remains his priority. **Ronnie Scott's Club, Friar Street, W1 (071-439 0747), Mon-Sat, support set from 9.30pm.**

ROCK

David Sinclair

LUTHER VANDROSS: Billed as "the only live performance Luther Vandross will be making in 1994" and promising appearances by some "very special guests", this concert looks certain to be a sleek and glittering affair. Backed by his usual band, plus a full orchestra,



Luther Vandross: a night of true romance for his fans

the 43-year-old soul star, who began his career as a backing singer for David Bowie, will be combining material from his forthcoming album, *Songs*, with a wide-ranging trawl through his best-known numbers. A childhood schooling in New York's gospel choir endowed Vandross with an astonishing vocal technique. If not the self-discipline always to hold it in check, and he has matured into a

flamboyant singer much given to investing a single phrase with a whole spectrum of meaning. Indeed so wide-ranging are the acrobatic vocal contortions and various ad libs that he and Mariah Carey bring to their current hit version of Lionel Richie's "Endless Love", that one was suggested the pair should claim a composer's credit. Unbelievers may find the air of camp theatricality a trifle unreal, but for the legions of adoring fans, this will be a night when true romance is in the air.

Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (071-589 8212), Tues 13, 7.30pm.

RIDE: Ride are another of those young-ish bands signed to the Creation label, who have turned their backs on new technology, and opted for the kind of sound that "real" rock groups used to make in the 1970s (see also Primal Scream and Oasis). Hailed initially in the late 1980s as alternative rock savants ("the House of Love with chainsaws"), they then got lumped in with the ill-fated "shoegazing" crowd, and now seem to be cast as a typical mid-1990s, rabble-rousing lads' band (see also Primal Scream and Oasis). Their third album, *Carnival of Light*, was released to a mixed reception in the summer, and this tour marks the first opportunity, barring Glastonbury, to hear it played live.

Guildhall, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth (0705 824355), Thurs 15: Wolverhampton Civic Hall, St Peter's Square (0902 312030), Fri 16: Barrowlands, Gallowgate, Glasgow (031-557 6969), Sat 17: Town & Country, Cookridge Street, Leeds (0532 800100), Sun 18: Manchester Academy, Oxford Road (061-275 2930), Mon 19: Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (071-589 8212), Wed 21. All concerts 7.30pm.

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

TURANDOT: Andrei Serban's production both opens the Royal Opera's season and celebrates its tenth anniversary, and rightly — it has acquired classic status as one of the few productions to make any sense of the unfinished state of Puccini's troubling opera. Sharon Sweet and Elizabeth Norberg-Schulz make their house debuts as ice-princess and slave, and Giuseppe Giacomini gets to sing "Nessun dorma". Daniele Gatti is the conductor.

Royal Opera House, Bow St, London WCI (071-240 1066/1911), Mon 12, Fri 16, 7.30pm. (2)

THE THIEVING MAGPIE: British Youth Opera's ambitious production of Rossini's operatic thriller is an astonishing success given that it was written for the great singers of the day (1817) and is here performed by — we hope — the great singers of tomorrow. Conducting (Timothy Dean) and production (Jamie Hayes) are unobtrusively skilful and above all true to the work, and young Rosamund Cole's performance as the maid-servant wrongly accused of theft is infinitely touching. The supporting cast is full of potential. Opportunities to see this great opera are all too rare — seize them.

Festival Theatre, Nicolson St, Edinburgh (031-529 6000), tonight, 7.30pm; Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8916), Wed 14, Fri 16, 7.15pm. (2) both.

Richard Morrison

LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS: The 100th Proms season has been an unqualified success, culminating in a magnificent final three weeks when one great visiting orchestra after another took the Albert Hall by storm. So there is further reason for the annual display of jollity that is the Last Night. All the traditional patriotic songs are here, as well as an extra tribute to Henry Wood, the founder of the Proms: the playing of his massive, and massively incongruous, arrangement of Bach's Organ Toccata and Fugue in D minor. Evelyn Glennie will also be on hand to play Paul Creston's *Marimba Concerto*.

Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (071-589 8212), tonight 7.45pm, also live on BBC1 and BBC2, and Radio 3.

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD: Lynne Parker's all-Irish production has all-Irish impact, bringing truth, freshness, dark humour and a sense of danger to Synge's story of the anti-hero fated as Achilles by a rural community for the gallantry of having killed his father. Seeing this, you can understand why the nationalists rioted in protest at the play-back in 1907.

Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (071-359 4404), Evenings, Mon to Sat, 8pm; matinee, Sat 4pm.

RABBI: Ephraim Mirvis ARCHITECTURE: Elegant columns outside, modern and functional inside, with wooden pews on three sides facing a central bimah, or raised platform, and stained glass windows.***

SERMON: Reflections from Chief Rabbi Dr Jonathan Sacks on how stubbornness and obstinacy, considered by some to be virtues, have been turned to vices by a people who have thereby retained their identity and resisted assimilation.***

MUSIC: The Shabbaton Choir, a voluntary group of young men directed by Stephen Levey and with cantors Stephen Robins and Lionel Rosenfeld, sang strangely mournful and evocative Hebrew prayers, with a cappella choral arrangements in harmonies of up to seven parts. Wonderful solos by 12-year-old Adam Willman.***

LITURGY: Beautiful prayers of repentance dating from the 9th century onwards.***

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Evoked a new depth of repentance in the period leading up to the Jewish high holy days.***

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: At nearly 2am, I was grateful to be offered nothing but sleep.

• More theatre, page 6

CHILDREN

LONDON

Tower Hill Pageant: Travel through time to see the 2,000-year story of the City of London and its port, complete with smells of the time. **1 Tower Hill Terrace, EC3 (071-709 0081), Today, tomorrow and daily, 9.30am-5.30pm. Adults £5.45, children £3.45, family (two plus two) £13.45. Limited facilities for the disabled (telephone first).**

The Town and Country Mouse plus The Little Mermaid: Traditional tales with the charming puppet theatre.

Little Angel Theatre, 14 Dugmar Passage, Cross Street, N1 (071-226 1787), Today, tomorrow, 1pm (Town and Country Mouse) and 3pm (Little Mermaid). Adults £4.50 (Mouse) or £5.50 (Mermaid), children £4 or £4.50. (2)

DORSET

Dinosaur Safari: Build your own dinosaur with computers "walk" a dinosaur through computerised prehistoric landscapes. **Expo Centre, Old Christchurch Lane, Bournemouth (0202 293544), Today and tomorrow, 9.30am-5.30pm. Adults £3.50, children £2.25.**

Tutankhamun: The Exhibition: Find out about Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon's long search for the Egyptian king's tomb. Walk through a reconstruction of the antechamber and see its treasures. **25 High Street, Dorchester (0305 269571), Today and tomorrow, 9.30am-5.30pm. Adults £3.50, children £2.25. (2)**



Tutankhamun in Dorset

HAMPSHIRE

Youthquake: Celebration for young people, bringing Christianity into the Nineties. Theatre, rock bands, fireworks. **Winchester Cathedral (0962 846444), Today, 7pm. Adults and children £5. Under-15s must be accompanied by an adult. Book in advance.**

NORFOLK

Time mine: Excavate a neolithic flint mine (4,000 years old). Must wear hard hats (provided) and descend 30ft by ladder. **Grimes Graves, Lynford, Thorpe (0842 810656), Suitable for over-6s. Today, tomorrow, 10am-6pm. Adults £1.25, children 60p.**

OXFORDSHIRE

Corn dolly weekend: Learn to make your own at this special demonstration for children. **Cogges Manor Farm Museum, Whitby (0993 772602), Today and tomorrow from noon — 4.30pm. Adults £2.75, children £1.50. Suitable for the disabled.**

American celebration: Meet native Indians and families in their teepees. **Sulgrave Manor, Sulgrave, Banbury (0295 760205), Today, tomorrow, 10.30am-5pm. Adults £3.80, children £1.90. Picnics welcome. (2)**

SUFFOLK

Behind the scenes at the Minster nature reserve. **Minster Reserve, Westleton. Must book in advance (0728 648289). Tomorrow, 9.30am. Adults £2, children £1.**

YORKSHIRE

World Merrils championship and family fun day: Learn to play this board game plus traditional games. **Ryedale Folk Museum, Hutton-le-Hole, York (0751 417387), Today, tomorrow, 10am-5.30pm. Adults £2.50, children £1.25, family (two plus two) £6.50. (2)**

How we used to live: Learn about life in Victorian England at this new exhibition. **Abbey House Museum, Kirkstall Road, Leeds (0532 755821), Today, 9.30am-5pm, tomorrow, 1-5pm. Also until December. Adults £2, children 50p. Limited facilities for the disabled.**

JANE BIDDER

Ruth Gledhill joins a rare midnight Jewish Orthodox service of repentance

AT YOUR SERVICE



AT SOME unearthly hour, while most of London's West End was shutting down to sleep or waking up to party, I was faintly surprised to find myself going to synagogue with hundreds of smartly dressed men and women from London's Orthodox Jewish community. We had turned out to hear the world-renowned Shabbaton Choir at a rare, choral midnight Selichot service. For the Jewish community it was a time of repentance and spiritual renewal in the period leading up to Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year, and Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

The sabbath ended with the setting sun at 8.48pm that day, and the atmosphere was more relaxed than at an ordinary synagogue service. Many of the congregation had driven to the service, and I was allowed to take notes. I sat in the gallery with the other women, next to Elaine Sacks, wife of our preacher, the Chief Rabbi Dr Jonathan Sacks.

We were in the month of Elul, the last month of the Jewish civil calendar, when morning prayers are accompanied by the sounding of a shofar, or ram's horn. Jews believe their behaviour on this day will determine whether God will inscribe them in The Book of Life, containing the names of the righteous. Thus Selichot, propitiatory prayers, assume a significance extending to the Day of Judgment, and the emphasis in the liturgy was on self-examination, atonement and forgiveness.



From left, Lionel Rosenfeld (cantor), Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, Stephen Robins (cantor) and Stephen Levey (choir director)

Shomer Hashem, et kol ohavav (God guards all who love Him), we heard. This was quickly followed by the threat of retribution. *Vet kol harsha'im yashmid* (He will destroy the wicked). "Forgive our iniquity, your mercy is great," the choir sang. Throughout, acknowledgements of God's wrath were juxtaposed with petitions and pleas for forgiveness. The ark, containing the scrolls of the Torah, the first five books of the Bible, was opened for the central hymn, *B'Motzai Menucha* (At the end of the Sabbath).

Our service had begun with an address by Dr Sacks: "Who does not feel the gravity of this moment as we reflect on the distance between what we are and what we should be?" he said. "To give this night its due solemnity I want to go back in time to that moment over 3,000 years ago, at which took place the first selichot service of all time, the moment the Israelites had witnessed the power and the deliverance and gran-

deur of God. He had taken them from slavery, rescued them from Egypt, carried them on dry land through the Red Sea."

Dr Sacks went on to relate an eyewitness report from the Auschwitz concentration camp, when a rabbi smuggled in a shofar for the new year. "In one building were 1,400 children who had been sentenced to die in the crematorium," said Dr Sacks. "The building was close to the SS guard and to blow the shofar would be suicide. But a message came to the rabbi from the children, begging him to let them hear the sound before they died. He blew the shofar, and they cried. They said: 'Rabbi, we want you to know we are going to die believing in God, and your shofar has given us strength.'"

Dr Sacks said: "Was there ever such a people? Was there ever such obstinate, stiff-necked, stubborn faith as this in the midst of the deepest darkness known to man? There was faith in these

children to shake the heavens and make God himself weep." He ended with a plea to God: "We know that You have faith in us. Teach us to have faith in You."

The service ended with an exhilarating setting of the *Kaddish*, a prayer of praise and hope for the establishment of God's kingdom on earth.

The Western Marble Arch Synagogue, 32 Great Cumberland Place, London W1 (071-723 7246).

RABBI: Ephraim Mirvis ARCHITECTURE: Elegant columns outside, modern and functional inside, with wooden pews on three sides facing a central bimah, or raised platform, and stained glass windows.***

SERMON: Reflections from Chief Rabbi Dr Jonathan Sacks on how stubbornness and obstinacy, considered by some to be virtues, have been turned to vices by a people who have thereby retained their identity and resisted assimilation.***

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COVER STORY

3

'I'm incensed that the law on quarantine has not been revised'

Continued from page 1

tuck boxes to the dogs during their six-month term. Instead, I will devote my time to the formation of a new organisation, FIDO - the Federation of Inbred Dog Owners.

Like probably millions of other animal owners returning to live in Britain, I'm irritated and incensed that the six-month quarantine law has not been revised, or at least reduced. After all, within the European Union only Ireland has similar laws.

To make matters worse, since last July owners of dogs kept specifically for breeding have been allowed to bring their hounds into the country without having to serve the mandatory quarantine period provided they have the necessary medical certificates and documentation.

In Britain, the last time a dog outside quarantine was known to have rabies was in 1969. Last year, nobody in western Europe died of rabies contracted there. The number of cases of rabies in animals reported in Europe has dropped by 70 per cent since 1986. France reported 27 cases of rabies in animals in 1993, compared to 570 the year before.

I can understand why the legislation was put in place, but its continuing imposition ignores advances in animal medicine. A blood test can now detect rabies very easily. A six-week quarantine period would give vets a chance to observe and inoculate an animal against rabies or any other disease.

When such inoculations are carried out in the United States or in most EU countries, the dog is issued with a 'passport' detailing date of birth and record of vaccinations. A tag reminding the owner when the next vaccination is due can be fixed to the dog's collar.

Such a procedure, coupled with proper identification such as a microchip implant and a blood test 30 days after landing, while the dog is still in quarantine, would form the basis of FIDO's campaign for a change in the law. FIDO supporters would be urged to donate the money saved from quarantine fees, vet examinations and travelling the country to find suitable kennels so that worthwhile causes like having the Dangerous Dog Act revised could be funded.

It was an agonising decision choosing the right kennel. The dogs, when eventually released, will not be able to convey precisely how they were treated, but I can only hope their stay will have been comfortable, that they will have been well cared for and given a few encouraging pats when they were feeling down and missing their owner.

Between last May and my return last month, I spent my free weekends visiting kennels. Luckily I had a bevy of friends' homes in Berlin. One of my reasons for not wanting to visit the dogs now is that each time I returned from these weekend forays they clearly knew it was time to go home. Imagine the disappointment of visiting them and not being able to carry them away.

The Rushwood Kennels and Cattery at Birdlip, Gloucestershire, is far enough from my new home in London to deter me from sneaking a visit.

Instead, I'm counting the days until February 8 - that's when they'll be free again to run in the London parks, the fields and along the beaches. I mark each week on my calendar and put in a regular call to the Warner establishment. Usually I'm reassured by a friendly kennel maid, who mostly oversees the cats, but has five dogs of her own. Mine are doing well, she tells me weekly, adding how well adjusted they are and how used to their new surroundings - a cage - they've become.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) regulations for small dogs, the sleeping area may be no less than 1.1 square metres and the adjoining exercise run at least 3.7m long. At Rushwood, the sleeping area is 3m by 1.2m and the run 7m by 4m.

Before settling on Mr Warner's kennels I visited a number of other establishments, some in Dover, others in Folkestone, and one near Newbury in Berkshire. It was a painstaking process, costly and time-consuming.

The literature issued by these establishments ranges from computer-printed newsletters to expensively printed glossy brochures, one even promised to send a photo of the pet after one month. But what I saw at one kennel was a far cry from these promises.

"The dogs have maximum contact with people and with other dogs," one kennel brochure stated. I had to laugh to myself when I visited this particular establishment. The brochure, which was designed to be enticing, added: "... a radio plays for the animal's benefit, and to continue, this socialisation, cassettes are played of everyday noises such as the Hoover, toilet flushing, phone ringing".

I was unimpressed. One of my poodles is actually shy of the Hoover, never reacts when the telephone or fax rings, and is never with me in the lavatory when I have to flush.

This particular kennel, although conveniently in Dover, was not terribly clean and the owner rushed me and another prospective customer through the premises, telling us not to touch the animals as they curiously peered through the wire fence.

I heard no tapes playing and as for contact, human or otherwise, there appeared to be little. One little poodle seemed so frightened, it never even ventured near as visitors came to the gate. I was depressed and sad. If only the laws regarding quarantine were not as harsh, I kept thinking, and praying.



Michael Kallenbach with his two miniature schnauzers, which he had to put in quarantine on his return to Britain

On my second Dover excursion to see the International Quarantine Kennels, I was immediately suspicious; this was the only one of the four kennels I inspected that had an immediate vacancy. There was only one kennel maid on duty, and the animals looked unkempt, scruffy and unhappy. I was appalled by the first item in their otherwise lacklustre brochure: it warns owners that if payments are not made on demand, "the proprietor shall be at liberty to dispose of the animals without further notice to the owner, other than one demand for payment due". An unexpected trip away, or a lapse in memory to pay an account on time, and my poor loved ones could face execution. My stomach turned further as I drove off.

Animal owners in Berlin, where I had lived for the past four years and where the dogs took advantage of the masses of forests and lakes in the surrounding suburbs, were sympathetic to my plight. And British ones even more so.

Many friends and potential members of FIDO helped gather material and details about kennels, even cat owners were supportive. One whose cat had been moved several times after she returned to England, sent me the name of a kennel just outside Newbury.

Like the visits to other places, my trip there was announced beforehand. But what I didn't know was that it would be raining on that particular May afternoon I was at the Granary Kennels.

"Where're all the dogs?" I asked eagerly, unable to see any animals. The owner of the kennel explained they are locked away in their sleeping areas whenever it rains, as it's too much work afterwards to brush their coats and make certain they are clean. But

surely it is bad enough for the dogs to be caged anyway, let alone locked in even more restricted space just because it rains.

I have now moved into a flat near Hyde Park, London - with the dogs and their daily exercise in mind. Next February I will take them there to run in wide open spaces and play "fetch" as they've been used to. They'll meet other dogs and, hopefully, the social skills - running, licking and playing - that they acquired in New York and Germany will not have been forgotten.

The £1,800 that Rushwood charges for the two schnauzers for six months includes all the paper work that needs to be completed for the MAFF collection from port of entry, a rabies vaccination and heating in winter. But any further veterinary or grooming expenses would be extra. My Berlin vet charged DM170 (£30) for the health check up and certificate needed for their entry into Britain.

Some friends, who also have their dogs at Rushwood, chose to ignore Mr Warner's advice about not visiting their dogs. They know my dogs well and have been into their cage to play ball. They report that all is well.

I am, however, trying to keep to Mr Warner's advice and stay away. As I tick off the weeks of quarantine left in my diary, I look forward to talking to a friendly voice from the kennels every Monday morning. It's the only link I will have with my dogs for the next few months.

Mr Warner is always encouraging and does his best to make me feel at ease. No doubt that's part of his job: after all, there's little I can do but worry if something is wrong with the dogs or if they

are ill. "They don't even seem to be missing you," Mr Warner says in an assured manner, almost as if he had that extra special dialogue with them and had just spoken to them on his mobile phone

while they were romping around in their cage. There isn't a day that goes by when I don't think of the dogs, locked away from their owner, deprived of human contact for six horrible months.

Cover photograph of miniature schnauzer by R. WILLBIE

PET OWNERS AND THE LAW

Dodgers face a year in prison

● THE last serious rabies scare in Britain occurred in Camberley, Surrey, in October 1969. The affected animal was a small mongrel, which had served a six-month quarantine and was returned to its owner, who exercised it on the local common. A few days after its release the dog began to behave unusually. A week later it escaped and in a 50-minute rampage killed a cat and on recapture bit its owner. The dog died of rabies in a laboratory four days later. Its owner was not affected.

The authorities took no chances: shoots were organised over neighbouring commons, which involved the killing of foxes, squirrels and carrion-eating birds. Every animal known to have been in contact with the rabid dog was placed in quarantine, and neighbouring pets were confined to their owners' premises.

● ALL domestic dogs, cats and other pets, including rabbits, hamsters and gerbils, must undergo six months in quarantine on arrival in Britain. Entry will not be granted unless an import licence from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) has been obtained. An animal landed without a licence will either be directed to quarantine or re-exported or destroyed, and its owner prosecuted under the Rabies Order 1974. Offenders are liable to penalties of a year's imprisonment or an unlimited fine or both.

● IMPORT licences are obtainable from:

For quarantine in England: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Animal Health Division C, Hook Rise South, Tolworth, Surrey KT6 7NF (081-530 4411).

Edinburgh E11 4 1TW (031-244 6177).

Wales: Welsh Office, Agriculture Dept, Crown Buildings, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NQ (0222 823831).

Northern Ireland: Department of Agriculture, Dunsdon House, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3SB (0232 650111).

● LICENCE applications should be received at least eight weeks before the animal arrives in Britain.

● BEFORE completing the application, owners must:

1. Reserve a place for the animal(s) at an approved quarantine premises. All premises are privately owned: the MAFF is responsible only for ensuring that disease, security and isolation requirements are met. Premises vary in the level of comfort and care. It is advisable to visit premises first, or to get a representative to do so. The list of approved premises is available from the above addresses.

2. Reserve the services of an authorised carrying agent, which will transport the animal(s) from the point of disembarkation to the premises. A list of approved carrying agents is available from the above addresses.

Animals may be landed only at: Ports: Dover Eastern Docks, Harwich (Parkston Quay), Hull, Portsmouth, Southampton, Airports: Birmingham, Edinburgh, Gatwick, Glasgow, Heathrow, Leeds, Manchester, Prestwick, Norwich, Belfast.

● COSTS vary enormously according to the level of comfort and care as mentioned above. However, as a rough guide, the cost to keep two dogs in quarantine for six months is about £2,000. This should include carriage from the port/airport, airfare, handling, ministry costs, transport and veterinary insurance, heating and rabies vaccination.

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ARTS

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RECORDINGS: Henze's finest work to date; a *Figaro* of grace; Clapton digs his roots; when Monk broke the commercial habit

Stephen Pettitt

HENZE
Requiem
Ensemble Modern/
Metzger
Sony Classical SK 58972***
HANS Werner Henze's Requiem was first given in February 1993, played by the artists on this marvellous recording, which was compiled later in the same year from three live performances.

When I heard the piece at the 1993 Proms I was bowled over. The cumulative effect of this sequence of nine "sacred concertos", as Henze terms this purely instrumental and not-at-all Christian work, was far more than the sum of its parts, which had been premiered at sporadic intervals in the three years or so before. It stands as a monumental testament of love and loss. And not just Henze's particular grieving for Michael Vyner, whose death in 1989 was the inspiration for the piece, but something more universal. In the excellent accompanying note, the composer says of the "Requiem" movement that for him it was "General Schwarzkopf ordering his tanks to drive over all those poor Iraqis", and at the climax of the movement he quotes from Hitler's favourite march, the "Badenweiler March". This is a requiem for the living and suffering, and for the waste that premature and unfair deaths are. In a sense it is a requiem for the young.

Ingo Metzger conducts the Ensemble Modern in a performance which, if anything, is even more powerful in its drama than that I heard the London Sinfonietta give at the Proms.

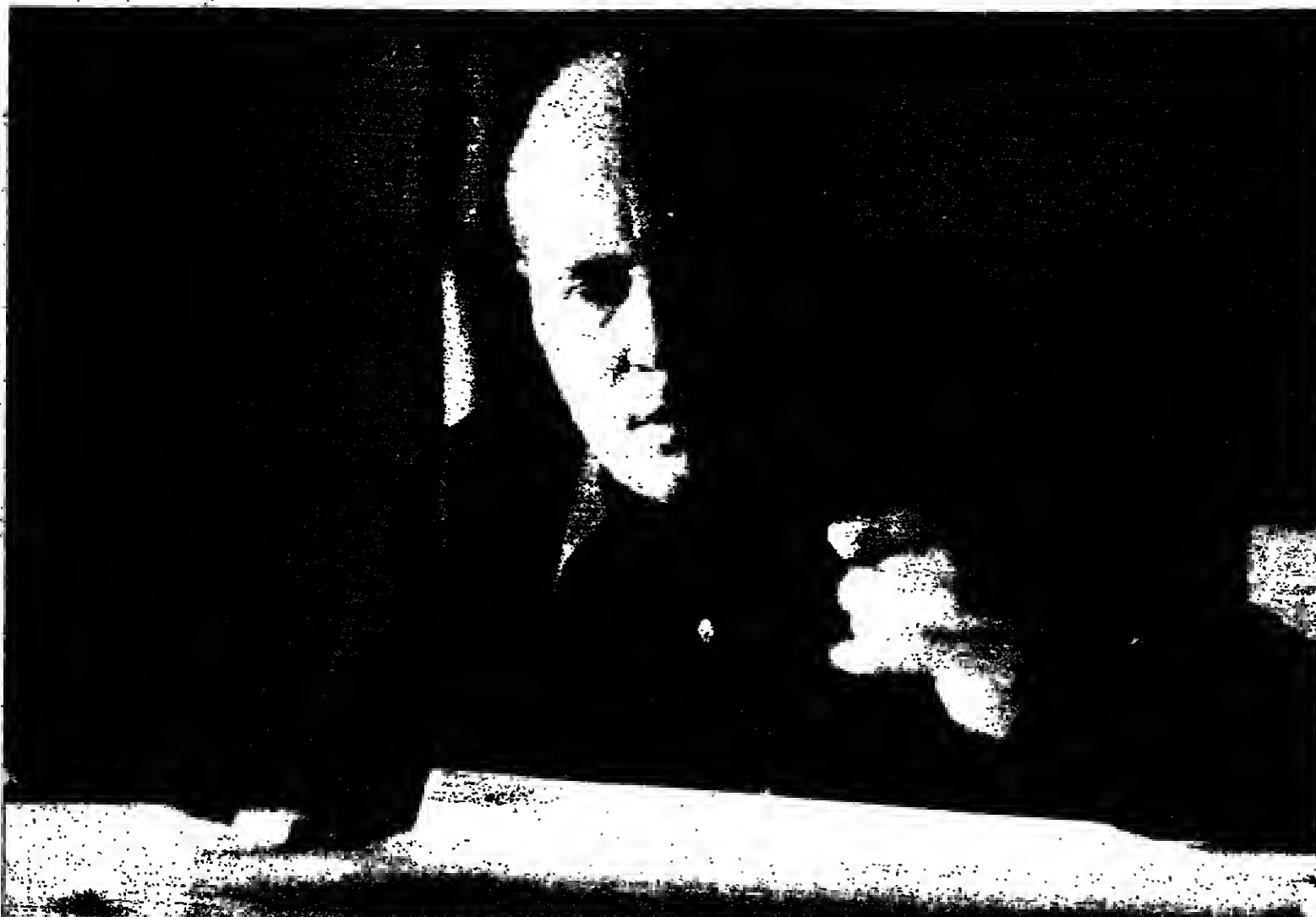
Hakan Hardenberger's concertante trumpet solos in the "Requiem", the "Lacrimosa" and the "Sanctus" are powerful images, while Ueli Wiget's eloquent solo piano functions as a distillation of all that is most personal in this score.

It is Henze's finest piece to date, which is to say that it is very fine indeed.

SHOSTAKOVICH
Violin Concerto No 2/
Schumann orchestrated by
Shostakovich: Violin
Concerto

Kremer/Boston Symphony
Orchestra/Ozawa
DG 439 890-2***
THE Second Violin Concerto, Shostakovich's somewhat gloomy sixtieth birthday offering to David Oistrakh (unfavourably delivered a year early), is rarely played but is at least as fine a work as its predecessor.

Gidon Kremer evidently believes so too and delivers a concentrated lyrical, intelligently paced live performance with the wondrously sympathetic Boston Symphony Orchestra under Seiji Ozawa.



Hans Werner Henze, whose Requiem, a sequence of nine "sacred concertos" premiered in 1993, stands as a monumental testament of love and loss

I am not quite as convinced by the filler, Shostakovich's re-orchestration of Schumann's Violin Concerto (itself recast from his Cello Concerto) adds colours and thickens textures without quite making the sort of statement Mozart was making about Handel when he updated the older composer's Messiah. One composer was delivering a compliment; the other was almost sending the work back marked with improvement.

Nevertheless the superb Kremer delivers another secure, rapt reading and the orchestra revels in the fruitfulness of the new scoring.

Hilary Finch

SCHUMANN/
Dichterliebe
BEETHOVEN
An die ferne Geliebte
Hampson/Parsons
EMI 5 5547 2***

AT LAST, Thomas Hampson's great song cycle was recorded live with Geoffrey Parsons at last year's Edinburgh Festival, in the context of an unusual and typically cunning programme, which turns out to be this disc's strongest selling point. Hampson turns first to early Romantic German responses

to Robbie Burns, no less, from Robert Franz's "Die süsse Dirn von Inverness", through Carl Loewe's spooky little setting of the question-and-answer ballad, "Findlay", and on to Schumann. Here Burns's "red, red rose" becomes a fragrant "rotes Röslein" in Hampson's most velvet tones, and the lusty "Hochländer Abschied" reveals "lederhosen" peeping under the kilt for "My heart in the Highlands".

The trail to Dichterliebe leads, rewardingly, through Grieg's responses to German poetry in the six Lieder Op 48 — songs of real stature given the distinctive performances they deserve — and on to a thoughtful, spacious reading of Beethoven's pioneering song cycle, *An die ferne Geliebte*, after which German song was never to be quite the same again.

Perhaps over-conscious of this fact, and a little over-aware, too, of himself and his audience on this occasion, Hampson gives a somewhat laboured performance of Dichterliebe. Minutely attentive to every passing nuance, it comes just a little too close to self-indulgence at times for prime musical comfort.

However, this is hardly likely to be Hampson's last recorded word on the subject, and his next one is eagerly awaited.

SCHUBERT
Die Schöne Müllerin
Hagegard/Ax
RCA 09026 61705 2***

THE Swedish baritone Hakan Hagegard is a refreshingly unselfconscious, unself-regarding singer: when he sets out with Schubert in pursuit of the Fair Maid of the Mill, his tread is sturdy, purposeful and lively, with a simplicity



Hagegard: purposeful

and a wide-eyed optimism which barely leaves him throughout the song cycle.

The music's rhythms — those of the millrace, the tramping foot, the rushing brook and the beating heart — are vigorously enjoyed, and Hagegard gives shape and momentum to the line even in the quieter songs of reflection.

Emmanuel Ax's piano playing backs him up, and hints at even more besides, because here Schubert's sudden shifts to a minor key and his increasing intensity in the piano writing of songs such as "Impatience" and "Mine" demand equal concentration on the singer's part — and Hagegard just misses the edge of anguish. When the Hunter appears on the horizon, with jealousy and pride in his wake, there is not quite the impetus and drive in the voice to feed the bitter devastation which follows.

Despite barely adequate notes and a sometimes awkward translation (only the most unimaginative of spirits could repeatedly translate both "rauschen" and "klirren" as merely "splashing"), this is worthy of adding to an existing library but, in view of healthy competition from singers such as Holzmair, Prégardien and, still, Fischer-Dieskau, it is not perhaps the Schöne Müllerin to choose before all others.

Barry Millington

TCHAIKOVSKY/
Piano Concerto No 1
SCRIBIN
Piano Concerto

Demidenko/BBC Symphony Orchestra/Lazarev
Hyperion CDA66680***
TCHAIKOVSKY'S celebrated First Piano Concerto may be one of the most over-recorded in the catalogue — there are currently some five dozen versions — but this new one from Nikolai Demidenko and the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Alexander Lazarev is something rather special. Demidenko has been steadily building a reputation as a thoughtful musician as well as a virtuoso, and both qualities are put to good use in this very individual account.

The opening is conventionally done, but Demidenko soon asserts his personality

with his highly introspective playing of the following passage. As he continues, one becomes attuned to his quavering alternations between confidence and rhetorical modes. In the former, familiar phrases are often pulled out of shape, but always to a purpose, while in the latter, virtuosic display is never found wanting, certainly not in the furious double octaves later in the movement.

Whether or not one finds those abrupt transitions an accurate reflection of the composer's neuroses, and whether the price paid in terms of the architecture of the music is justified, will be a matter of taste. What is beyond question is the refined pianism of which Demidenko is capable, and which is evident throughout, in such passages as the beautifully phrased main melody of the second movement and the glittering runs of the last.

This disc is made even more attractive by the unusual coupling: Scriabin's Piano Concerto in F sharp minor, Op 20. The psychological universe inhabited here is impassioned, with quicksilver flashes of temperament — "a world of nerve ends", as Demidenko himself has put it — and it takes a pianist of his all-round skills to do justice to this composer's ultra-refined sensibilities.

This is readily accessible music, using a rich, late-Romantic harmonic palette, and well worth exploring.

OPERA

John Higgins

MOZART
Le nozze di Figaro
Bonney/Margiono/Lang/
Hampson/Scharinger/
Concertgebouw Orchestra/
Harnoncourt
Teldec 4509-90861-2
(3 CDs)***

IT HAS been a summer of Figaros. First came Méhta on Sony (**), then Gardiner on Archiv (***) and now Harnoncourt on Teldec, each employing quite different casts and approaching Mozart



Harnoncourt: meticulous

in totally different ways. Of the three, Harnoncourt's is the best and most probing. It also gives the impression of being the most carefully assembled.

There is the luxury of having singers of the calibre of Philip Langridge and Ann Murray in the tiny roles of Marcelina and Basilio. Nobody will jib at the inclusion of their Act IV arias when sung with the style and clarity they are given here. Note too the wistful tones of Isabel Rey's Barbarina in her little song about her lost pin — or virginity, as some would have it. Harnoncourt calls it "the most strikingly sad piece in the whole opera" and Rey goes

a long way towards proving him right.

Harnoncourt is equally meticulous in casting his principals for the colour of their voices. For once there is no chance of confusing the Count with Figaro or Susanna with the Countess. Barbara Bonney's maid is bright and coquettish, quicker-witted than Figaro, ready to charm any male in sight and the whole world with "Deh vieni". Charlotte Margiono's Countess has creamier tones, flecked with sadness. "Porgi amor" gives her problems — as it did for her rivals on the other labels. But once past it, Margiono comes into her own and maintains the Countess as a young and neglected wife, not a middle-aged and battered one.

The contrast between Thomas Hampson's Count and Anton Scharinger's Figaro is equally vivid. Hampson is a nonpareil among Almavivas at the moment, a haughty aristocrat dealing with the sometimes impudent lower orders — Rosina, after all, was no more than a doctor's ward and Cherubino still but a page. His dealings with Susanna at the beginning of Act III over the assignation in the garden go straight to Mozart's highly sophisticated heart: two humans playing dangerously with one another and lying through their teeth. No wonder Hampson then turns "Vedro mentire io" into an outburst of upper-crust choler and frustration.

Scharinger's Figaro is a bluffer creature, relying on inbred wit to guard what is rightfully his and expert at keeping renegade pages in order. Petra Lang's great quality as Cherubino is naturalness, as she lets "Non so più" gush out of the page's lips or shapes "Voi che sapete" with the artlessness that is high art.

Guiding all is the meticulous hand of Harnoncourt, weighing each phrase carefully, whether in aria or recitative, and never hurrying. The Concertgebouw may bluster with the Count or drip misery with the Countess: Harnoncourt gives the impression of having analysed everything. A Figaro of grace and many insights.

POP ALBUMS

David Sinclair

ERIC CLAPTON
From The Cradle
Duck/Reprise 9362 45735**

ERIC Clapton must feel like a pig in clover. After years of struggling to conform to a mainstream, middle-aged rock formula which his record company could market to the Tina Turner/Phil Collins crowd, he discovers that what his audience really wants is less varnish and a lot more blues.

Unplugged, his 1992 album, which offered live recordings of standards such as "Rollin' And Tumblin'" and "Walkin' Blues" alongside acoustic versions of "Layla" and "Tears In Heaven" has now sold 14 million copies, making it easily the most successful album of his career.

So, for his latest offering, From The Cradle, it is a big welcome back to the Eric Clapton who used to be the most blueswailing rock guitarist of his or any other generation. Recorded "completely

live with hardly any overdubs", these 16 tracks recall Clapton in his pre-Cream, blues-purist phase, the era which yielded the classic John Mayall Bluesbreakers with Eric Clapton album in 1966.

Apart from a needless re-mix of Muddy Waters's over-familiar mating call, "Hoochie Coochie Man", the album steers a successful course between the obvious and the obscure, taking in most shades of blues, from the down-and-dirty slide-guitar workout of "Blues Before Sunrise" to the acoustic, "back-porch" treatment of "How Long", complete with harmonica and washboard.

But it is on a succession of big, set-piece, slow numbers that Clapton excels: a high-octane reading of Eddie Boyd's "Five Long Years" (a song he first recorded with the Yardbirds in 1964), an intensely pained reworking of Freddy King's "Someday After A While" and an utterly spell-binding version of Willie Dixon's "Groanin' The Blues", in which he exhibits all the devastating range and fluency which, even today, maintains his guitar playing in a class of its own.

GRANT LEE BUFFALO
Mighty Joe Moon
Slash/London 828 541*

SLOW, acoustic, dusty old laments are rudely interrupted by glowering squalls of overdriven guitar noise. There are a handful of good tunes, but generally this is a disappointing follow-up to last year's masterpiece, Fuzzy.

SUGAR
File Under Easy Listening
Creation CRECD 172**

SUGAR remain closer to the cutting edge than the average chart-bound band, thanks to singer/guitarist Bob Mould's tendency to cloak his elegantly constructed melodies in arrangements that seem to have been fashioned for the sole purpose of battering down concrete walls.

POP SINGLES

David Sinclair

SUEDE
We Are The Pigs
Nude NUD 10***

"WE ARE The Pigs" is a stunning return to the fray by the first "serious" rock'n'roll band of the 1990s to rediscover the lost art of the four-minute single. Propelled by one of Bernard Butler's finest riff/chord sequences and fuelled by the nightmare visions of Brent Anderson's lyric, the song romps home with a glorious chorus that combines old-fashioned sing-a-long appeal with an intriguingly sinister edge.



Brett Anderson: visions

A brilliant solo by Butler provides a springboard into the rousing finale, when guitars and voices mesh with rhythm and horn sections for a final, grinding climax.

The package comes with two, brand new B-sides — "Killing Of A Flash Boy" and

"Whipsnade" — both strong songs in their own right and neither of them destined for inclusion on the forthcoming album, Dog Man Star. It is the must-have rock single of the month.

STILTSTIKIN

"Footsteps"
White Water Records WWR 02**

APPARENTLY not a one-hit wonder, Stiltstikin follow up their No 1 debut single, "Inside", with another vigorous, guitar-dominated song, tinged with an indefinable air of mystery. Faster than "Inside" and less distinctive, "Footsteps" nevertheless boasts a strong vocal performance from Kurt Russell lookalike Ray Wilson and has a similarly compelling quality. Whether it will prosper without attaching itself to a super-stylish jeans advertisement is another matter.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

THELONIOUS MONK
Big Band and Quartet In Concert
Columbia 47898-2***

WHILE Thelonious Monk's long relationship with Columbia helped him edge into the commercial mainstream — Time magazine cover and all — most of the music from that era had a slightly anti-climactic air to it. The albums we treasure most now are from the earlier Riverside and Blue Note periods.

This 1963 Lincoln Center concert is one of the happy exceptions. Monk and his gifted arranger Milt Overton had recorded a similar large-scale project some years earlier, with mixed results. This



Monk: special occasion

time, from the opening splash of the horns on "Bye-ya", it is clear that we are present at a special occasion.

The quality of the musicians obviously helped — Thad Jones, Phil Woods, and Steve Lacy were all on the stand that night, alongside Monk's faithful saxophonist Charlie Rouse. Overton's arrangements, moreover, bring out the subtleties of the quirky pieces without smothering them in brass and reeds. The halting, irregular theme of "Evidence", which could pose all sorts of problems, is beautifully handled, Woods's alto saxophone bursting out of the ensemble.

Monk's solo feature on a little-known pop song ("When It's Darkest On The Delta") is the only disappointment. Most of his familiar devices — the dissonant chords and asymmetrical rhythms — are present, but all delivered with no hint of surprise. The quartet was playing a supporting role that night, and takes only a fraction of the playing time. It is more than enough to demonstrate Rouse's empathic tenor skills and his telepathic understanding of his leader.

* Worth hearing
*** Worth considering
**** Worth buying

THE TIMES



Refugees by the roadside: a detail from Howson's painting Cherished

The war artist Peter Howson made a second trip to Bosnia last year. His frank and unsettling paintings reveal the suffering and brutalisation of ordinary people caught up in the conflict.

Times readers are invited to two private viewings of Peter Howson: Bosnia at the Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1. The artist was commissioned by The Times and the museum as official war artist and this is the first exhibition of his work from the war zone.

Invitations to the private views, on Wednesday September 21 and Wednesday October 5 from 6.30pm to 8.30pm, cost £10 each. Canapés and Mouton Cadet red and white Bordeaux wine from Baron Philippe de Rothschild will be served. Each guest will receive a free copy of the exhibition catalogue, worth £12.99.

Fill in the coupon to obtain your tickets. Invitations can be reserved by phoning 071 226 7450 between 9.30am and 6pm (credit cards will not be accepted).

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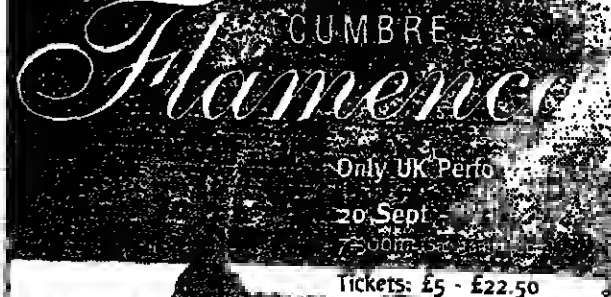
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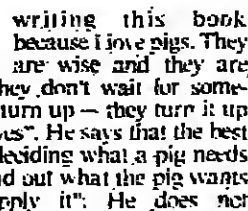


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But pigs are just one example, and I could give others: the growing of fodder beet, with which I was not but avoided at the last minute, should never have crossed the mind of a farmer who was gaining some skill at the growing of mangel-wurzels. Nor should I ever have thought that the buying of straw in bales so huge that two men cannot lift one is in any way going to improve "efficiency". Well, this little return journey is going to take time and effort to accomplish. The area where the temptation to modernize is greatest is in the growing of a field of winter wheat. So, as stated in my initial declaration, I have called a complete (possibly permanent) end to it. Peace in our time.



change on this little farm. I can only sum up my new attitude as being one of back to basics. I have been farming organically, with horses, for nearly five years now and only recently have I come to realise how far removed I have become from my original aims.

Somewhat, I have been sucked into a mainstream farming way of thinking. I have been working with vets, at varying intervals, nutritional data and all the other hideous jargon which modern farmers have erected to distance the layman from any understanding of what they do. Slowly and insidiously I have been deflected from my ambition to farm in a way in which I believed into making some kind of futile attempt to keep up with those around me. Which, with only a pair of cart horses and two hands, was bound to end in tears. I warn all those who might follow my path to keep their heads and hearts fixed firmly on their original intentions.

The turning point came for me

when I picked up a book I first read when I started to keep pigs, and have not read since. It is called *The Pioneering Pig* by Norman Blake and was published in the early 1950s by Faber and Faber along with a whole raft of highly sensible books on alternative approaches to

farming (they also published a book called *Pig Curing and Cooking*... nudge... nudge... a copy of which I am desperate to see). Blake's approach is boldly stated in his second paragraph: "I am

active; they don't wait for something to turn up — they turn it up themselves". He says that the best way of deciding what a pig needs "is to find out what the pig wants and supply it". He does not

stone or an old bit of snow fencing, so that it can find it again in the almost featureless terrain.

Now, the family it was *part* of in the summer have all gone their own way, and each parent bird has made its solitary way south. Other greenshanks, which bred in northern Europe, are also passing through Britain just now. But as winter draws nearer, those that remain here will be mostly Scottish birds, which will settle along the coasts of southwest England.

In this respect the greenshank is unlike another wader that breeds on our northern moors: the dunlin; most of our native dunlins are now heading for Arlanda in winter, but the shoreline dunlins, along the place, will remain. But these will be birds that have flown in from Scandinavia and Russia.

Dunlins are small waders with a hunched back and short legs that scamper through the dying ripples of the waves. They are sociable

these social movements have been analyzed, and it has been shown that the flocks usually change course when another bird joins in. The birds that are nearest to the new bird follow its lead, and the change of direction runs like a wave through the rest of the flock. These fast-moving flocks that constantly change direction and shape offer effective protection against a sparrowhawk or a peregrine falcon.

Other waders that summer on high lowlands are common sandpipers, golden plovers and curlews. They all go their own way in winter. Common sandpipers are often seen sitting across a salt marsh, but most of them will migrate farther south. Golden plovers will assemble on the playground, where winter wheat and barley are growing. Only the curlews will spend the winter on the shore with the dunlins, their bubbling calls ringing across the water as the tide advances and retreats and keeps them moving along.

DERWENT MAY
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Nest-hunting is no longer easy for the barn owl, the silent bird of prey called Old Hushwing. As a result, it has been added to the list of endangered creatures. In the 60 years from 1932, the population declined by 70 per cent to fewer than 5,000 breeding pairs throughout Britain.

Important among the reasons for the decline is the loss of nesting sites. Many barns and farm shelters, in which farmers traditionally built owl holes, or windows, into the gable ends so that the bird could enter and make a home, have collapsed or been converted into homes.

In addition, hayricks have disappeared, and many hollow trees, a favourite nesting spot, have been lost to Dutch Elm disease and storms. The introduction of the combine harvester in the 1940s led to the disappearance of stack yards and straw-bedded stables on farms. Ideal hunting ground for the bird whose staple diet consists of small birds and mammals, particularly the vole.

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a person in a hooded garment, possibly a hooded figure or a person in a hooded cloak, with a dark, circular feature visible on the face. The image is grainy and has a stark, almost graphic quality.

Finding a good place to breed is getting harder for the barn owl, but help is at hand

The loss of rough grasslands through more intensive land use, particularly along hedgerows, riverbanks and streams, has removed yet another feeding ground. Severe winter snows also hinder the owls' attempts to find food, but the mild winters of the late 1980s and early 1990s have eased the problem.

Further help is at hand for the barn owl, whose white, heart-shaped face enclosed in a crew-cut of brown feathers gives it a distinctive, ghostly appearance. Ryedale District Council, based at Malton, in North Yorkshire, and covering more than 300 square miles of wolds and dales, launched its Barn Owl Campaign this year to encourage awareness of the problems facing the birds.

Besides providing information packs for local schools, launching a writing competition and offering the chance to participate in a survey of owls in the area, the council has changed the way planning applications for buildings are received.

Farmers, landowners and developers applying for planning permission to convert, demolish or re-build a farm building are now required to consider the barn owl. If the proposed building is a known nesting site already afforded legal protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, permission will be granted only on conditions which safeguard the owl. "Any work which might affect the residen-

ty of harm owls must be carried out only when alternatives have been provided," says Martin Parsons, countryside officer for Exeter council.

Builders are required to site a nesting box as close to the original site as possible, attached to a tree or adjoining building, to encourage owls to stay in the area. Often, birds will transfer to another site close by, but the unpredictability of wildlife means there is no guarantee that, once moved from their original site, they will remain in the area.

In addition, builders must incorporate an owl window into a converted property to allow the bird to return and,

Martin Blythe, a local government officer, has done just that. Alongside his house in a Yorkshire Dales village near Mafum, he has created an owl window with a landing platform and indoor nest box in

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a person's face, heavily shadowed and textured, possibly a portrait of a historical figure. The image is grainy and appears to be a reproduction of an older photograph. The person's face is the central focus, with deep shadows on the right side and highlights on the left. The texture of the skin and the fabric of the clothing are visible. The overall tone is somber and historical.

Martin Blythe at the owl window built into his garage.

his stone-built garage. Although not a birdwatcher, he is aware of the rich wildlife close to his home — he has often seen owls flying across his garden at dusk — and was keen to make his contribution to their survival.

"I was first talked into putting an owl box on one of my trees at the edge of the wood," he says. "Then I decided to build something more secure in the canopy."

He made an opening below the roof in the gable end and built a landing platform for the birds, who usually return

Paul Willems, network adviser to the Hawk & Owl Trust in Stroud, says the owls should be impressed by Mr Blythe's courage in a brood of five.

The barn owl is the flagship of our birds of prey which provide one of the best indicators of the health of our natural environment because of their position at the top of the food chain," says Colin Shawyer, the trust's director of conservation and research.

The trust has designed a triangular, chicken-wire netting box with a roof which overhangs the platform. It allows an access door for cleaning inside. A cheap cement bucket can serve the same purpose. Either can be placed in a tree on barn rafters, on the inside of a gable wall — positioned so that the owls have an unhindered flight path into the box — and farm cats cannot gain easy entry.

The trust also runs an Adopt A Box scheme so that individuals or groups who do not live in an area where there are barn owls can pay for a box to be sited elsewhere. In return they receive general information about the birds and specific news of any activity in the box.

LYNNE GREENY OLD
● For information on how to
save the barn owl and how to
make a nesting box, visit the
Hawk & Owl Society on

Zoological Society of London,
Regent's Park, London NW1, and
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Demand forces prices to rise

A used car dealer friend of mine said, "When the big motors pick up, you know the recession is over". We were standing on his forecourt, which was packed with impressive models: a handful of Mercedes-Benz 190s and 200s, a couple of Jaguar XJ6 3.2s, and a 4.0 Jaguar Sovereign, a BMW 535i Sport and two 750i SEs. Towering above them all was a Range Rover Vogue SE, and all were in mint condition, three to four years old, with average mileages and full service histories.

"There is no point buying it," said my friend. "Punters want a saving but they do not want rubbish."

Glass's Guide, the motor trade's bible for used car values, detected signs of an upturn as long ago as the first six months of last year. It reported a sudden increase in demand for super luxury cars, such as the Bentley Turbo R, Aston Martin Virage and Porsche 911, and for luxury executive used cars, including the Jaguar 4.0 Sovereign, BMW 730 SE and Lexus LS 400, that sent values up.

While the quality car market may not have experienced such dramatic activity since, values have nonetheless continued to improve.

A recent edition of the guide compared the trade values of two-year-old quality cars in May 1993 and May 1994, and found that values for super luxury cars had improved by an average 17.5 per cent, and for luxury executive models by an average 11.2 per cent.

Contrast that with the average 5.3 per cent increase in the same period for two-year-old upper medium cars such as the Vauxhall Cavalier 1.6i and Rover 214 Si, and the strength of the used quality car market becomes clear.

What then is happening to the market? If buying a quality car is a sign of increased confidence, then perhaps the end of the recession is in sight. A few optimistic souls may not be enough to influence used car values so strongly, but they are if there are fewer cars available.

Glass's Guide says that total new car sales in 1992 were marginally higher than in 1991, but the super luxury sector suffered a year-on-year fall of 40 per cent. In other words, today the market for two-year-old super luxury cars is 40 per cent down compared with a year ago, while values are up.

The same situation, though less extreme, exists for luxury executive cars. New sales fell less sharply between 1991 and 1992, hence the more modest but equally noteworthy 11.2 per cent improvement in their values.

Improved values are not, however, simply a symptom of economic recovery. Manufacturers of quality cars are aligning production with demand more closely these days, not quite to "just in time" delivery, but a stark contrast with the bad old days of packed vehicle compounds.

The effect has been to reduce dealer discounting — if you have only one car in stock there is no incentive to give it away — and push up the prices of new quality cars. Values of used models inevitably follow suit.

The increasing popularity of personalised number plates — AI or I LUV and so on — is

Used BMWs undergo stringent checks and are sold with a warranty virtually matching that of a new car

of quality cars. Motoring magazines like *Autocar* and *Motor* constantly preach the benefits of buying cars that depreciate slowly, be they new or used. As a result, the public is more aware of the crippling

tax bill, which obviously makes a lot of sense.

One other factor is the export market for UK registered quality used cars. At Cowie Autopoint in Birmingham, where the huge Cowie vehicle group disposes of the bulk of its ex-lease vehicles, Phil Bastow, the manager, says the market for used Mercedes 260s and 230s is very hot.

"Traders are coming here and paying retail money for cars, then shipping them out to Cyprus, Holland and Ireland," he explains.

Autopoint's best quality sellers are Mercedes 230s, 260s and 190Es, BMW 3-series saloons and coupés, Audi 80s, Saab 9000s, VW Golf GTIs and Land Rover Discoverys. Last year, business was up by 300 per cent compared with 1992.

"Professionals are our chief customers," Mr Bastow says. "A used quality car is reliable, good value, well equipped and a great ambassador for their business."

JOHN EVANS

Drive a hard bargain



Buyers want a saving, not rubbish

Buying a used car could not be easier — but beware the pitfalls, says David Sutherland

Having decided on the type of used car you want, the easiest way to buy it is to pop down to the nearest franchised dealer and make out the cheque. Charged with upholding the manufacturer's reputation, the dealer will pamper you.

Under BMW's Approved Used Car scheme, for example, all used cars will have undergone stringent checks and are sold with a warranty virtually matching that of a new car. In the unlikely event of the dealer selling you a dud he will swiftly rectify the problem.

The recession has made the used car business much more important to dealers; and other marques have copied BMW. Throughout most of the franchised network the level of customer care is sufficiently high to render the Sale of Goods Act almost irrelevant.

Buying at a dealer, though, is the most expensive way, as "top book" prices are charged. A Volvo dealer would ask around £11,500 for a 1990 H-registered 740 GLE Estate, up to £1,600 more than if it were bought privately.

The second tier in the used car market is the general dealer, not tied to any one make. Here, reputations vary widely but it is safe to assume that a long-established garage stands a reasonable chance of being ethically sound.

Their prices are lower than those from franchised dealers, but the overall quality of stock is inferior. General traders frequently sell the used cars that dealers reject as sub-standard, or whose mileage is too high.

However, the best used cars outside the dealer network are often found among one-make specialists, invariably enthusiastic and knowledgeable.

Gerrards Cross-based Saab specialist SaaBen prices cars £1,000-£2,000 below dealers, and does not shy away from high mileage cars. "There is nothing wrong with high mileage cars," says proprietor Ben Berry. "The car must have a service history, must not have had serious accident damage, and the price must reflect the mileage."

A recent development in used car retailing is the "car supermarket", usually a massive site with hundreds of different used cars of many makes on view. They offer dealer-type facilities such as credit-broking, insurance and part-exchange.

Supermarket stock tends to consist of ex-fleet cars up to five years old, with above-average mileage but low prices. Recent visitors to the Car Supermarket in Acton, west London, could choose from a line-up of Mercedes-Benz 190Es, and a 1992 J-registration 18 was on offer for £9,999, some £2,600 less than the top dealer price thanks to its 101,000 miles.

Motorhouse of Cannock, which with 800 cars on display claims to be the UK's largest of its type, restricts itself to "late-leader" UK registration cars provided from "daily rental" fleets and auctions. With many still under warranty, merchandise quality is not a problem.

Buying privately is the cheapest, but riskiest, way, especially if you are considering a high-specification car with lots of electronics on board. You have little effective comeback should it develop major problems. That said, *Exchange & Mart* offers a special contract for buyers and sellers costing £20 from Nationwide Used Car Arbitration (NUCA). It is legally binding and has built-in arbitration by the AA should a dispute arise. (Further details 0374 505020.)

Some basic guidelines help to avoid pitfalls. Check the address on the V5 registration document to ensure the seller is the true owner. If documentation is unforthcoming walk away, for this invariably means that the car has been "clocked" (the mileage wound back) and the evidence destroyed.



Franchised dealers provide complete customer care, but prices can be high

For £25, Salisbury-based HPI Autodata (0722 422422) can, from its vast computer database, tell if a car is still subject to any outstanding finance (if it is, the finance company could ultimately repossess it), and also if it has been rebuilt after being written off by an insurance company.

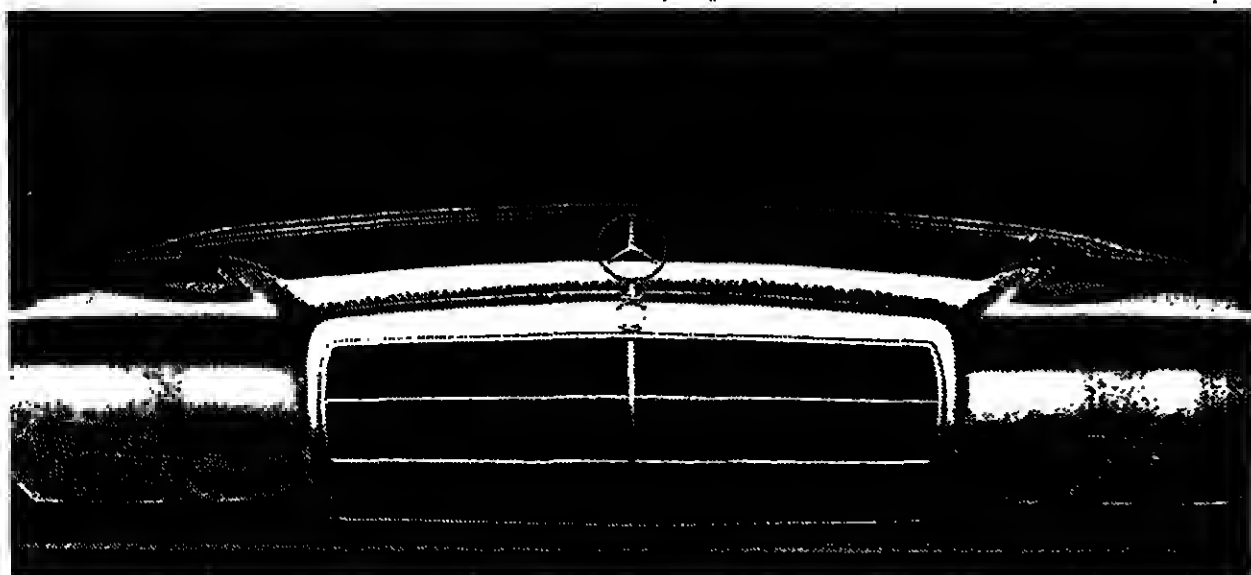
Few buyers are able to make a full check of a car's condition, so an independent inspection is a good investment. The AA provides full mechanical reports, with prices ranging from £99 for a Ford Fiesta-sized car (non-members £117), to £176 (£207) for an executive car such as an Audi 100, while the charge for appraisals on Jaguars and Porsches, for example, is £248 (£293). The RAC provides a similarly priced service, but dealers and specialists may also be willing to give a less formal assessment for a smaller fee.

In recent years big auction houses such as ADT and Central Motor Auctions have smartened up their images, in the process attracting many private buyers seeking to bypass traders and to save 10-15 per cent.

The novice car buyer should appreciate that auctions are still geared up to the motor trade, and private buyers are only just tolerated. With cars going under the hammer every 30 seconds it is hard to work out what is happening, let alone make a bid, and test drives are not possible.

The least dangerous auction strategy is to restrict yourself to ex-fleet cars less than a year old and thus still under warranty. Check price guides to establish the maximum "trade" value of the desired model, and pre-set a ceiling bid, swearing not to exceed it. This way, and with some luck, you could end up with deal to be proud of.

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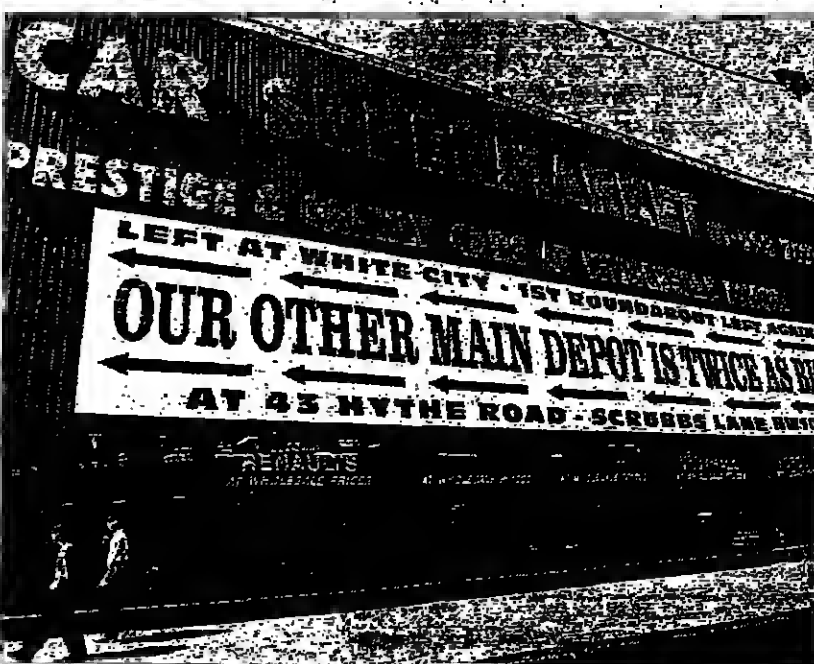
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"Car supermarkets" offer dealer-type facilities such as part-exchange



General traders often sell inferior used cars, ones that dealers have rejected

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and a vehicle which retains its status and value over the years



Mercedes-Benz almost defy first-year depreciation, provided the buyer stays with the cheaper models

Luxury reaps high rewards

The moment a registration plate is attached, the value of most new cars drops sharply. By the end of the first year, a £15,000 family car will be worth 25-30 per cent less than its original list price, while more than £10,000 will be wiped from the value of a high-volume executive car such as a Rover 827SLi, listed new at £25,000.

Freefall depreciation presents a forceful argument for bypassing the new car showroom and seeking a nearly new model. The private buyer does not enjoy the full benefit of depreciation, as the basic "trade" price is marked up on the forecourt, but the savings should cover insurance and servicing for a couple of years.

A 1994 L-registered Audi 80E2.0 will cost £14,000 from an Audi dealer, a saving of £2,500 on even a discounted new price.

With carmakers showing no signs of halting the flow of cars into the market, buyers can expect to pick up cheap, nearly new cars at keen prices for some time to come. But, as ever, depreciation varies widely according to the market sector and model.

Two "low-image" executive models, the Rover 800 and Ford Granada, fall in value from £20,000-plus simply because there is no strong used market for them. Most year-old examples find their way back into fleets with a used-only buying policy.

But the used market for prestige marques is entirely different, and buoyant. "If someone is spending up to £20,000 on a used car they are going to want something with a quality name, and Audis, BMWs and Mercedes-Benz have all picked up recently," says Andrew Wilkinson, managing editor of one of the

motor trade's price guides, CAP Black Book.

Mercedes-Benz and BMWs almost defy first-year depreciation, provided the buyer stays with the much cheaper models. After one year a BMW 318i will fetch nearly £15,000, with £1,000 of the new price, while there are early signs that the new Mercedes C-class will enjoy the cast-iron resale values of its predecessor the 190E.

Trade experts broadly agree, however, that it is sounder economically to pay a high price for a car with strong resale value than to buy a high-depreciating model, at a knockdown price. Around £14,000 would buy a 1993 Ford Granada 2.0 Scorpio originally priced at over £21,000 or a BMW 318i (£17,000), but in three years' time the Ford's trade-in value will have sunk to £6,000, some £2,500 less than the BMW's.

But remember that strong resale values cannot be guaranteed for life. Four years ago the rise in theft of "hot hatchbacks" and the subsequent increase in insurance premiums caused the high values of Volkswagen Golf GTis and

Ford Escort XR3is to plummet virtually overnight.

There are signs that 4x4 "sport utility" vehicles such as the Vauxhall Frontera and Nissan Terrano II could be the next victims. The rapid growth of this market niche (since 1990 sales have more than

doubled to 58,600 a year) has ensured a healthy demand for used examples: earlier this year 1994 Jeep Cherokees were fetching fractionally more than list price, while Land Rover Discoverys and Mitsubishi Shoguns also command high prices.

Increased supply is now bringing this party to an end. "Prices will steadily ease back over the next 12-24 months," predicts Mr Wilkinson. Furthermore, insurers have now identified the beginnings of a theft problem.

It is equally possible for the value of certain cars to leap suddenly.

Mr Wilkinson reports strong demand for 1990 Porsche 911s as "user-chooser" executives realise that a second-hand £25,000 Porsche is now within their budget and relatively tax-efficient, given

the employee tax concessions on four-year-old cars.

Those buying cars between two-and-a-half and three years old will probably end up with the best value, for at this point depreciation levels out. A 1991 J-registered Saab 900 2.0 with 35,000 miles can be bought from a dealer for around £10,750, some £8,000 less than when new. One year from now it will have lost no more than £1,000 in value, assuming average mileage.

The "buy at three, sell at five" strategy works particularly well on Japanese models covered by a three year/60,000-mile warranty, such as Mazdas, Mitsubishi's, Toyotas and Nissans.

Buy a late 1991 Mazda MX-5 roadster for £12,000 from a dealer, spend another £296 on extending the warranty to five years, and you will enjoy almost fixed-cost motoring. By selling privately a month or two before its fifth birthday you will allow the buyer enough time to have any faults fixed free of charge, and this will optimise its used value, probably around £10,000.

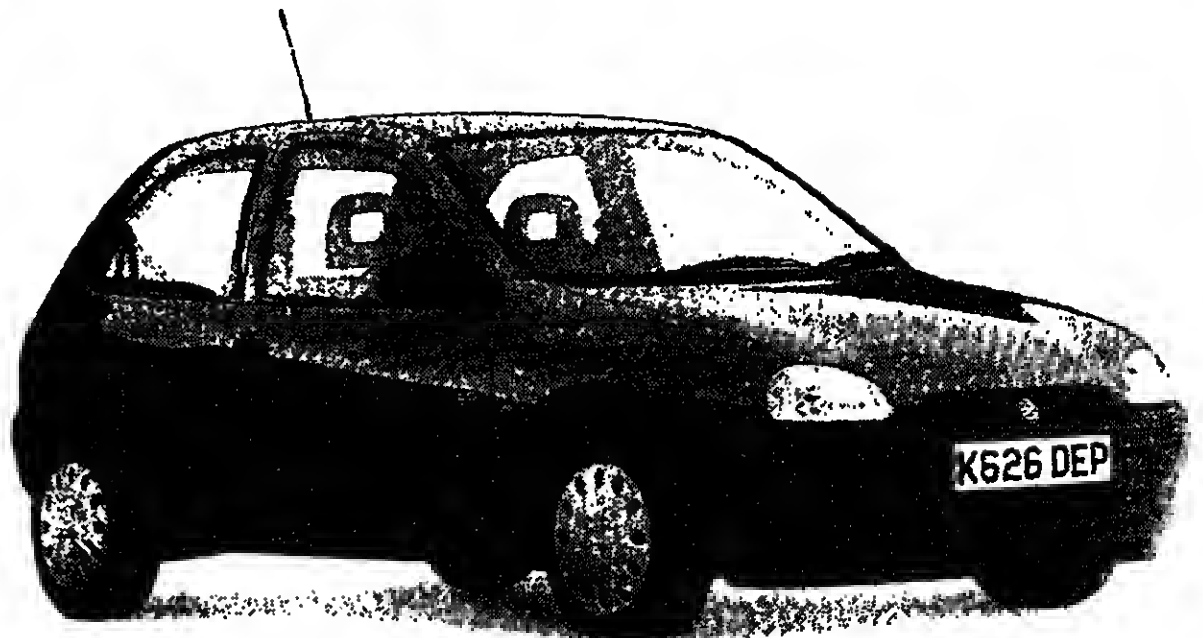
Above average mileage destroys resale value, but modern cars take high mileage in their stride, and in any case cruising the motorway all day can be less stressful on the engine and gearbox than the stop-start school run.

A 1991 Audi 100 2.8E with 35,000 miles has a top retail price of £12,750 — excellent value even at that — but had that car done 70,000 miles it would be worth £3,000 less. Covered by a watertight warranty, such a car would be a risk-free way to save a lot of money.

DAVID SUTHERLAND

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13

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By the end of our 48 hours in the country, Bill had cured us of any desire for pace. The thought of the Embankment crawl even provided some comfort.

● *Neuberger on the Booker Prize, page 17.*

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COLLECTING

15



From left: a sports coupé, Meccano delivery van, town sedan, Castrol delivery van, 1936 Hollands Coach Craft van, all 1930s

Mad about miniatures

Once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Dinky Toy enthusiasts arises next week when Christie's auctions one of the finest collections of motor vehicles, trains and accessories in existence. The Barnes Collection — assembled over 15 years by Dr Roger Poulet from Barnes, southwest London — comprises almost every pre-war Dinky model ever made. Each toy is in unusually fine condition, and most are in their original packaging: 350 models and 12 boxed sets whose estimates total more than £70,000.

How did 52-year-old Dr Poulet set about forming such a collection, when even now no specialist shops exist? "I started on a whim," he says. "My mother used to buy me most of the new ones in the early 1950s, and I kept them — of course, they were all pretty badly beaten up, and all the boxes were gone. Then in the 1970s, I decided to replace them all with fine examples. I went to the Museum of Childhood in Bethnal Green, east London, and saw all the pre-war stuff and I decided to try to collect the lot. It was the wonderful bright colours that most attracted me."

It might come as a surprise to many that Dinky Toys even existed before the war, but while Matchbox Toys came on the scene in 1954, and Corgi two years later, the first "Mod-

The Barnes Collection of Dinky Toys goes under the hammer this week



Sought-after 1938 cars include a model driver

elled Miniatures" — as Dinky Toys were originally known — rolled off the Liverpool production line as early as 1932. They were the first British toy cars to use advanced die-casting techniques, and the man behind the idea was Frank Hornby — inventor of Meccano (which dates back to 1901) and, of course, the eponymous train sets. He had been spurred on by imports of the American "Tootsie" range of model road vehicles: he was convinced he could do better.

The first Modelled Miniatures were post-along trains

and cost between 1/9d (about 8p) and 2/6d (about 12p) for a four-piece set (current estimate £150 to £600). In 1933, six motor vehicles were made and, although the trademark had not yet been established, these models are regarded as the first Dinky Toys. Originally priced at between 6d (25p) and 1/- (5p) each, the full set of sports car, sports coupé, motor truck, delivery van, tractor and tank is estimated at £3,000 to £4,000. Before the war, the models were not individually boxed, although there were a few boxed gift sets

containing four to six models. Six variations of the one model would be delivered to dealers in a single box and they would be sold individually. To find such a set intact, therefore, is the Holy Grail of the Dinky collector: when that set is made up of the much-prized commercial vans, then the collector's cup runneth over: this is the star lot in the auction. Six identical lead delivery vans from 1934, all in different colours and sporting the liveries of "Hornby Trains", "Pickfords", "Manchester Guardian", "Oxo", "Meccano", and "Palethorpe's" — a superb set in the rare, original yellow Trade Box estimated at £8,000 to £10,000. These boxes alone are now worth a lot of money: the most Dr Poulet has ever spent on a single item in his collection is £1,500 — and that was for one such empty box.

One of the reasons it is so difficult to find the early alloy models in fine condition is that the metal was of poor quality and prone to "fatigue": the structure of the alloy simply breaks down, and the cars quite literally crumble to dust. Although the Barnes Collection, which has a cut-off date of 1953, represents the very best and rarest, many later Dinky Toys are of great interest to collectors — particularly those from the late 1950s and early 1960s — but production at the original Burns Road



Dr Poulet with a valuable set of six lead delivery vans from 1934

factory in Liverpool continued until 1979 (Dinky now exists as a trademark only) and so the scope is wide. Condition is all: a 1959 Morris Oxford, for example, with slightly chipped paintwork would fetch £15 in fine condition this could be £100, and if in its original box the value would be £75 to £100. It helps to know all the authentic colour schemes (often the same model appeared in many variations) as a lot of overpainting by collectors goes on, this — from the collector's point of view — makes the

vehicle worthless. Many collectors specialise: buses, commercial vehicles, emergency services, and so on. The standard work on the subject, *Dinky Toys and Modelled Miniatures* by Mike and Sue Richardson, is out of print, but a new edition is promised by New Cavendish Books for 1995. In the meantime, the only way to gather a feel for the relative values is to tour toy fairs and antique markets. If condition doesn't trouble you, car boot sales throw up hundreds of old Dinkys — and they are cheap.

The model Dr Poulet will most miss is a rare orange and blue "Meccano" delivery van (estimate £1,000 to £1,500), but he is philosophical about the break up of his collection. "I hope whoever buys all these lovely things gets as much fun out of them as I did."

JOSEPH CONNOLLY

● The Barnes Collection of Dinky Toys is to be sold at Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 0RT (071-581 7611) on Thursday at 2pm. Viewing on Tuesday and Wednesday, 10am-5pm.

Salerooms

□ The fiftieth anniversary of W. Heath Robinson's death is commemorated by the London dealer Chris Beetles with an exhibition, now open, of 100 original illustrations. Expect to pay from £225 to £17,500 for the comic classic of strange machines, then visit Christie's non-selling exhibition on the artist, starting Monday.

□ Sotheby's will transport buyers back to Edwardian times on Tuesday when it sells the contents of Crossange Hall, near Penrith, Cumbria. The house was furnished between 1915 and 1919 by the iron-ore dealer Joseph Torbeck and his wife, Florence, and has been left largely. Mrs Torbeck's wedding dress is valued at £150-£250.

□ A music box designed by John Chancellor, of Dublin, in 1811, and capable of playing six tunes, is for sale at Phillips (Baywater) on Tuesday: the estimate is £10,000-£12,000.

□ The Nazi-style uniform worn by Charlie Chaplin in *The Great Dictator* could fetch £25,000 at Sotheby's showbiz sale on Wednesday and Thursday. A recording of John Lennon singing with the Quarry Men is tipped to sell for £100,000.

□ A rare bisque-headed doll brought for £1 in 1978 at a jumble sale is estimated to fetch more than £10,000 at Christie's South Kensington on Thursday.

□ The London dealer Rebecca Hosack offers art works by African bushmen at the Concourse Gallery in the Barbican on Thursday, priced £50-£500.

SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

● Chris Beetles, 8 & 9 Ryder St, London SW1 (071-839 7551), Christie's, 8 King St, London SW1 (071-839 9060), Sotheby's Crossrigg sale, Crossrigg, near Penrith, Cumbria (0231 74051 for information), Sotheby's, 25 New Bond St, London W1 (071-493 8080), Phillips Baywater, 10 Salem Rd, London W2 (071-229 9090), Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Rd, London SW7 (071-581 7611). Information on the African exhibition from the Rebecca Hosack Gallery, 35 Windmill St, London W1 (071-409 3599).

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THE TIMES

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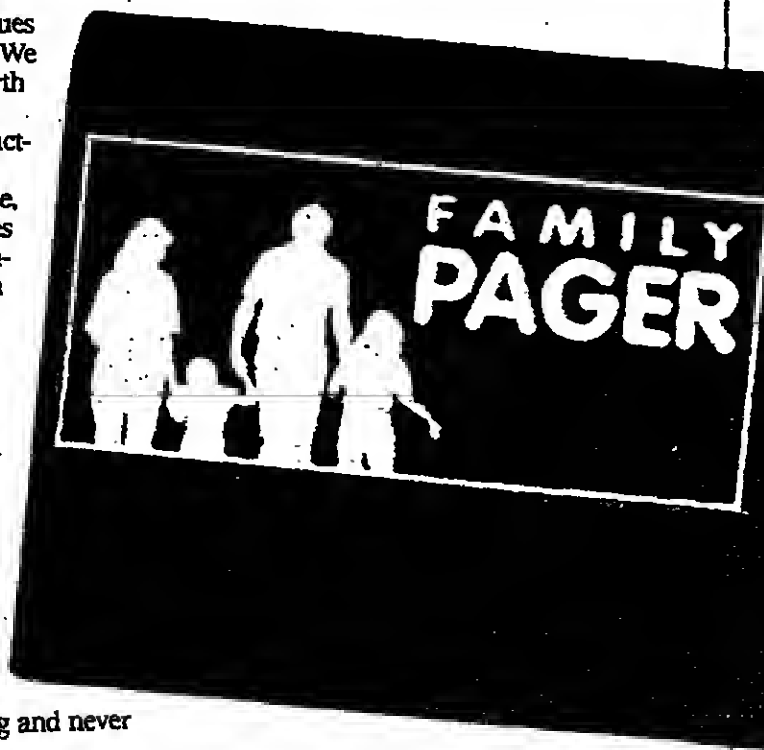
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How to get into print

Giles Gordon on the ultimate DIY resource for authors

The Net Book Agreement is a restrictive practice. Like all restrictive practices it is designed to protect the interests of producers and retailers. The Net Book Agreement, in its eighth and 1995 edition of *The Writer's Handbook* (Macmillan, £12.99). Less noisily, the 88th and 1995 annual edition of the *Writers' & Artists' Yearbook* (A & C Black, £9.99) observes: "The Net Book Agreement is an arrangement, approved by the Restrictive Practices Court as operating in the public interest, designed to improve the availability of a wide range of books through a wide range of outlets."

Thus do our two leading reference books for writers deal with the current Big Issue exercising the book trade, as Sir Bryan Carsberg and the Office of Fair Trading consider whether the agreement is against the consumers' interests.

The *Yearbook* had the field to itself until the first edition of Turner's healthy annual blast announced itself in 1988. The *Yearbook* had become stuffy and complacent. Competition has proved a healthy stimulant and the latest edition is an essential directory and companion for anyone involved with or interested in the mechanics of authors, artists, playwrights, writers for film, radio and television, photographers and composers. It is the ultimate Do-It-Yourself manual for writers, the would-be published as well as the published. If everybody hurrying manuscripts to agents and publishers were to read and note its 700 pages, they would almost definitely find themselves published sooner.

The *Writers' Handbook* is also 700 pages long. Where as the *Yearbook* is essentially factual, the *Handbook* is critical. Turner, for instance, not only lists publishers, their addresses, telephone and fax numbers and the names of leading members of the firms, he notes annual turnover and provides succinct pen portraits of the imprints, often naming titles published by them. He even tells you how frequently royalties are paid. I like Oranofony Press — "royalties where applicable" — and have hope for Educational Heretics Press — "royalties not paid but under review".

Do look out, though, for Cakebread Publications, which published one title in 1993 — "royalties not paid".

In the case of literary agencies, he lists leading clients of the bigger firms, which is wonderfully useful for authors in search of representation. The *Yearbook* solicits entries from agents. Most list their activities, specialties and commission rates factually and briefly but the Darley Anderson Literary Agency goes for broke: "special fiction interests" include "all types of women's novels including 20th-century romantic sagas, sexy novels and 'women in jeopardy' stories".

The *Yearbook* includes more than 30 articles by specialists. I particularly enjoyed Michael Tod on publishing his own book and then having it taken up by a conglomerate; Richard Williams on desktop publishing; Michael Legat on publishing agreements; Antony Whitaker on libel; and Peter Vaines on income tax for writers. The *Handbook* is even better on tax, culling its information from the Society of Authors' *Quick Guides to Taxation*.

Somehow the *Yearbook* makes the whole business of publishing and of being published seem intimidating, a labyrinthine maze. All the information is there but you must not lose concentration for a moment. The *Handbook* is more author and reader friendly. Turner is particularly reassuring in an article on "Self-Help for the First-Time Author", warning: "It cannot be said often enough: publishing is like any other business. The purpose is to make money."

The two books overlap, obviously, in providing details of publishers, agents, newspapers, magazines, film and television and video producers, writers' courses and circles and workshops, prizes and press cutting agencies, library services and picture libraries.

Yet the books are complementary. If you intend to sell a piece of writing, whether an article or a 1,000-page book, you should certainly purchase both *Yearbook* and *Handbook*, and not only because the combined net cost (if we still have the Net Book Agreement when these words appear) of £22.98 is tax deductible.

Cursed with the luck of the Irish

■ THE GLASS LAKE
By Maeve Binchy
Orion Books, £15.99

WHAT is the worst thing a woman can do? In the world of women's fiction, probably not even killing a husband is as bad as leaving your children for a lover. If, on top of this, you allow them to believe you have died and turn your back on their grief, then who can forgive you?

In characteristic Binchy mode, the moral question is not a simple one. Helen McMahon, the wicked woman of the piece, in fact leaves a letter to tell her husband she is going. But her daughter finds it and burns it unopened, assuming it to be a suicide note and hoping to save her mother from eternal exile in unconsecrated ground.

By the time Helen reads of her supposed drowning in the newspapers, she has a new life in London, and is too afraid to correct the mistake. Can she forgive herself? Can the daughter, who in time finds out the truth, forgive her?

The mitigating factor here is a recurring theme in Binchy's fiction: the devastating domestic confinement that Church, custom and lack of education have meant to women in Ireland this century.



Binchy: no simple moral

The *Glass Lake* is set in the 1950s, when a glimmer of light showed on the horizon, too late for Helen's generation but there for her daughter. The road to freedom lies in qualifications, degrees, diplomas, certificates, and not a Binchy heroine — her heroines are nearly always teenage girls — gets away without them.

This hard-headed message is softened by the lyrical context. Binchy's domestic dramas are played out against a deceptively cosy backdrop of small Irish towns and villages. She has great warmth and humour, and a real gift for human moments: the fear-some agony of being wrongly dressed at a dance, the hilarious tactlessness of well-meaning friends.

These are unashamedly novels about and for women. Men sock their heads over the parapet here and there, but are promptly shot down as drinkers, bones, gropers, wimps, liars or libertines. As one of Binchy's characters puts it, there has never been "a single woman apart from in a wild western movie who has raised a man".

ROSE WILD

Was Denholm Elliott's hidden homosexuality the key to his talent as an actor?

Luvvie that dared not speak its name



Elliott: fractured personality

THE face that gazes out from the dust-jacket is lined and wrinkled like an ancient turtle, shy yet mocking, enigmatic in expression, yet full of irresistible fun and a longing to be loved. Graham Greene once said of Denholm Elliott as an actor, "There are depths of character in him, an interior behind his eyes. Like Scofield, he doesn't disclose himself at first." As Elliott himself once remarked, "I am good at playing fractured people, perhaps because I know what it's like."

It is a credit to Elliott's wife, Susan, that she does not shrink one of the possible causes of this fracture, the fact of his being a bisexual who felt forced to conceal his homosexuality from all except her. Even when he was dying of an

Aids-related illness, he had to be smuggled in and out of hospital under a pseudonym.

Clearly Susan Elliott was the anchor in his life, whom he loved, and who created for him a much-loved home in Ibiza, to which he returned to die, but she makes no attempt to analyse why he needed the sexual and emotional outlet of male lovers. Since bisexuality, both among women and men, is far more common than is generally recognised, it would have been invaluable to have allowed two of his more permanent lovers, David and Edwin, both mentioned in this book, to tell us much more about their relationship with Elliott over several years. Only Simon Callow, in a remarkable excerpt from his book, *Shooting the Actor*,

■ DENHOLM ELLIOTT: QUEST FOR LOVE
By Susan Elliott
with Barry Turner
Headline, £16.99

offers us some insight into Elliott's pursuit of some kind of Holy Grail experience through his male lovers, of whom a dwarf was possibly the most unforgettable in the beauty of his love-making.

Elliott made his debut in the West End within six months of being released, in 1945, from a famous German prisoner-of-war camp, Stalag VIII B, which housed more than 21,000 men. Cast as Olivier's son in Christopher Fry's *Venus Observed* at the St James's Theatre, he went on to star on Broadway in Fry's *Ring Round the Moon*, returning to

London to do yet another Fry play, *Sleep of Prisoners*, which he described as one of the great experiences of his life.

He was hailed as Gielgud's natural successor but then came the advent of the kitchen-sink drama and, as he said, "My middle-class tone was despised. I was passed over." However, he began to make more and more films and television (he was one of Dennis Potter's favourite actors), discovering a niche as a character actor in supporting roles, making a speciality of parts which revealed "the loser beneath the skin".

Always a very private person, what he enjoyed most was sitting at a café table and watching people. "Not just the obvious but the tiny things. The man leaving a tip and

then wondering if it is too much or too little and looking around trying to see what others are leaving. It's the little subtle bits that sometimes later come out in performance. You don't copy the look but what it reveals underneath, the inner story."

Those people who are regular readers of *Hell* will lap up this book like the very best cream, while those who are more discerning will value those chapters which attempt to evaluate the special magic of his acting. One closes the book with a sense of having glimpsed a little of the inner story of this extraordinarily English actor who, as Hugh Leonard once wrote, "never starred but always shone".

JAMES ROOSE-EVANS

A tender heart and a brutal soul

Erica Wagner on two contrasting novels about the secrets of the human spirit

ALICE Hammond's story, as told by Sara Lewis, is in some respects nothing unusual. Alice gets pregnant just before her lousy boyfriend, Nick, dumps her; she moves out of their roach-infested Manhattan apartment and in with her difficult, elderly grandmother; she attempts to cope with her alarmingly enormous belly, her mostly monstrous family and her tedious job all at once — and she manages. Just about. It is the kind of story that could be almost anyone's, and it would not necessarily be a wonderful novel, or even a novel at all.

But *Heart Conditions* is a wonderful novel. Lewis writes with the kind of simplicity and elegance which is thin on the ground these days, and quite remarkable in a first novelist. She is insightful and funny, too, and she makes it all look as easy as pie. "Oh Alice! There was a long sigh of defeat, which travelled from Aunt Louise in a London hotel room to a satellite out in space and back down to me in a remodelled farmhouse on Long Island and still sounded exactly like the defeated sigh I had heard from Aunt Louise a thousand times before. If it hadn't been the kind of sound that could make you feel lonely and worthless for days, it would have made a nice commercial for the long-distance company."

For the duration of this novel, Alice will be your best friend. You will wish to breathe advice into its pages, and you will be grateful for the wisdom that you will find there. There are a lot of books around with characters twisted into eccentric spirals in an effort to make them stand out by description alone from the flat page (oh yes, I remember, the one-eyed Iberian harmonica player). This is one of those books. You may well recognise Alice's grandmother, or her Aunt Louise, or Nick; but then you may have recognised Emma Bovary, too. That is in part where the great pleasures lie, and in rediscovering the joy of a good story beautifully told.

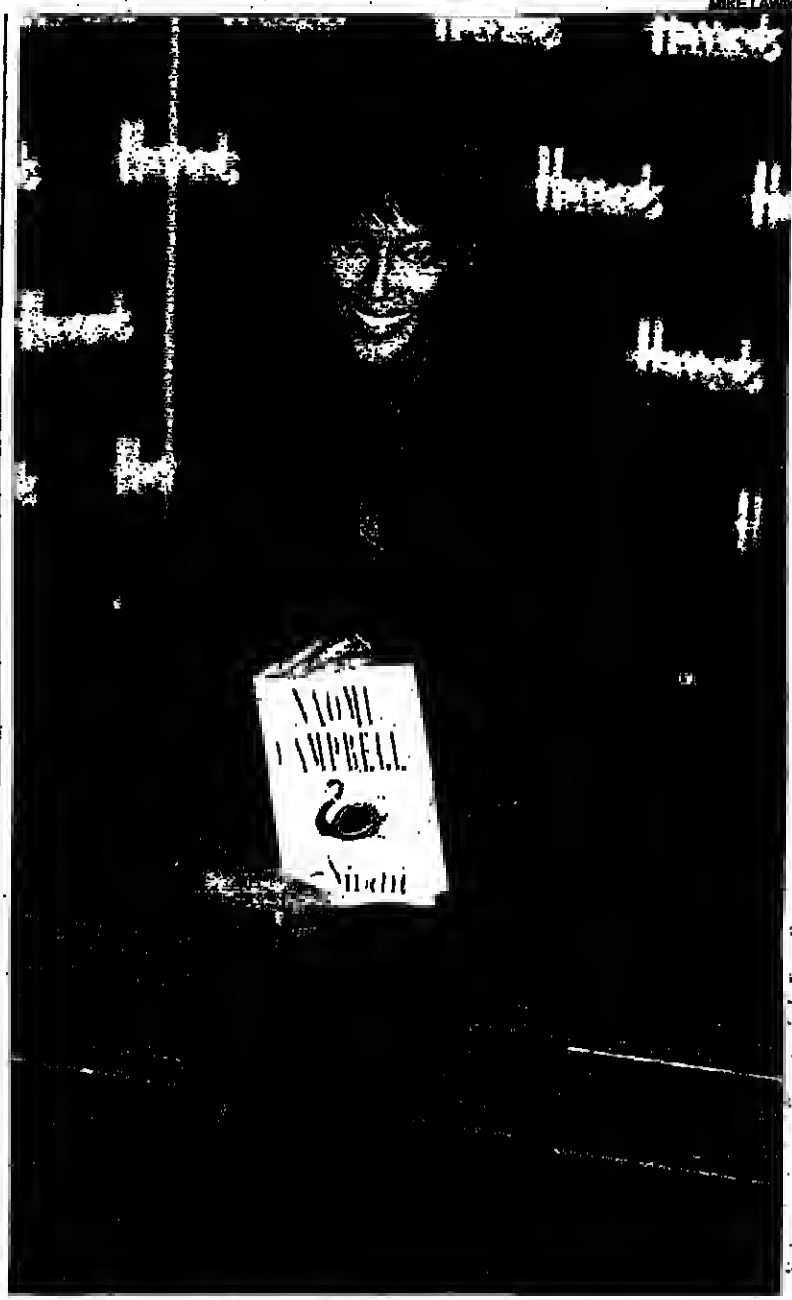
■ HEART CONDITIONS
By Sara Lewis
An Abacus Original, £5.99

■ GOING NATIVE
By Stephen Wright
An Abacus Original, £5.99

Stephen Wright's *Going Native* is another kind of novel altogether. Here is the flip side of normality, the secret and brutal heart that beats in suburbia's breast. Wylie and Rhoda live on the outskirts of Chicago; they barbecue with Tommy and Gerri, who are more neighbours than friends — but what's the difference, really? Everything is fine until one night Wylie disappears — suddenly, unaccountably, and right in the middle of dinner, leaving Rhoda and Tommy to trawl for him in the Valium-numbed streets.

This book is Wylie's *Odyssey*, though he hardly appears in it. He travels westward to the coast, but we do not go with him, not exactly. Instead, we encounter the lives whose paths he will cross, the people he will damage in varying degrees. For Wylie is that most modern of fictional characters, the serial killer, so devoid of affect that he barely exists.

THE structure of this book makes it less like a novel and more like a set of loosely linked stories. Reading it is like television channel-surfing, with the remote control in someone else's hands: you learn so much and then you move on, but you see, as you go, the strange spectrum of American life, from crack houses to Vegas marriage chapels to the Hollywood elite discovering their souls in darkest Borneo. Destruction hovers over everything: *The Four Horsemen* on MTV. These are "stories with the same ambivalent allure of a reptile house", horrifying and fascinating all at once. Wright's style is meticulous and trippy, as detailed and chilling as a bad dream. *Going Native* is a roller-coaster book; you might not even want to look, but then you might become addicted.



Naomi Campbell launching her novel *Swan* at Harrods on Tuesday

Fiction after a fashion

THERE is little chance of Naomi Campbell's novel, *Swan* (Mandarin, £12.99), not being a bestseller. *Iain R. Webb, fashion editor, writes:* The hype which surrounds the gorgeous supermodel is enough to sell anything she touches. People will buy *Swan*, even if it is only to find out how bad it is... which actually it is not.

It is certainly a pacy read, the kind to be picked up at an airport and finished by arrival. It is nevertheless a cleverly crafted tale of catwalk capers and backstabbing bitchiness in the baroque-scarum world of high fashion.

It has been no secret that the book was ghost-written for the supermodel, who put down her thoughts on a tape

recorder. Scenarios and narrative steal from Campbell's real-life rags-to-glad-rags story and it is this similarity which fascinates. *Swan* is the ultimate insider's guide to what is hot with the supermodel sisterhood. The odd paragraph deals with weightier issues, such as race and anorexia.

Swan reads like the longest *Vanity Fair* article ever written. At the beginning, Campbell's heroine, flies Concorde (naturally) and reflects on her fellow famous-faced passengers: "While everyone else was known for what they did, I was a celebrity for my looks alone. Nothing else." *Swan* is a novel by a young lady celebrated for her looks. What you see is what you get.

In a league all of your own

■ THE OFFICIAL FANTASY LEAGUE MANAGERS HANDBOOK
By Andrew Wainstein
Corgi, £5.99

■ FANTASY TEAM
By Jason Page and Richard Mead
Bloomsbury, £3.99

THE idea of fantasy football leagues was thought up by Andrew Wainstein, approximately four years ago. It was based on the baseball and basketball leagues played in America, but the idea really caught on in a big way only last season, when the media got involved.

Wainstein has now written a book, titled *The Official Fantasy League Managers Handbook*, which contains the rules of the game (in which you choose a team of 11 players playing in FA Premiership clubs, and then score points based on the performances of the players each week), instructions and hints on starting your own league, all last season's Premiership statistics and a full fixture-list for this season. The book also lists the top competitors in last season's media leagues and a scrapbook containing details of officially endorsed smaller leagues run by pubs, etc.

Fantasy Team, is based on the media leagues run last season. The authors have made a few changes though from the games of last season, such as having more money to spend on players, bonus points to be scored when your players do something special and the added attraction of "playing" against real Premiership sides and finding out what position your team would be in the table. There are also full instructions, score sheets and quizzes to substitute for any weeks in which you may have missed the actual playing performances.

So for less than £10, you can get a season's entertainment, which is much less than the cost of a season ticket — even a seat — at any club.

BENJAMIN WILLIAMS

The Times/Dillons Bestsellers

HARDBACK			
		Last week	No. weeks
1 DEBT OF HONOUR Tom Clancy (HarperCollins)	£16.99	1	5
2 DISCOVER COMPANION Terry Pratchett (Collins)	£14.99	2	4
3 MAGIC EYE I: A NEW WAY OF LOOKING AT THE WORLD (Michael Joseph)	£10.99	4	18
4 TWELVE RED HERRINGS Jeffrey Archer (HarperCollins)	£10.99	3	9
5 MAGIC EYE II: NOW YOU SEE IT (Michael Joseph)	£10.99	7	19
6 THE HUMAN ANIMAL Desmond Morris (BBC)	£16.99	0	4
7 FLOYD ON ITALY Keith Floyd (BBC)	£16.99	6	6
8 IN THE KITCHEN WITH ROSIE Rosie Daley (Ebury)	£9.99	0	6
9 NOTHING LASTS FOR EVER Sidney Sheldon (HarperCollins)	£14.99	5	2
10 DELIA SMITH'S SUMMER COLLECTION Delia Smith (BBC)	£14.99	10	20
PAPERBACK			
1 BLUE AFTERNOON William Boyd (Penguin)	£5.99	1	4
2 BIRDSONG Sebastian Faulks (Vintage)	£5.99	2	9
3 PADDY CLARKE HA HA HA Roddy Doyle (Mandarin)	£5.99	4	14
4 DISCLOSURE Michael Crichton (Arrow)	£5.99	0	1
5 A SPANISH LOVER Joanna Trollope (Black Swan)	£5.99	3	9
6 VANISHED Danielle Steel (Corgi)	£4.99	9	2
7 PLEADING GUILTY Scott Turrow (Penguin)	£5.99	0	1
8 SHIPPING NEWS Annie Proulx (Fourth Estate)	£5.99	8	5
9 CRUEL AND UNUSUAL Patricia Cornwell (Warner)	£4.99	5	12
10 THE CLIENT John Grisham (Arrow)	£5.99	6	14
11 FETAL ATTRACTION Kathy Lette (Picador)	£5.99	7	12
12 WILD SWANS Jung Chang (Flamingo)	£7.99	11	21
13 WITHOUT REMORSE Tom Clancy (Warner)	£5.99	10	11
14 TAKEN ON TRUST Terry Waite (Corgi)	£5.99	13	2
15 TELL ME THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE: TEN POEMS W. H. Auden (Faber)	£2.50	17	5
16 ADRIAN MOLE: THE WILDERNESS YEARS Sue Townsend (Mandarin)	£4.99	15	9
17 THE HOUSE OF DOCTOR DEE Peter Ackroyd (Penguin)	£5.99	12	5
18 CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER Tom Clancy (Fontana)	£5.99	0	1
19 CURSE OF THE MISTWRAITH Janny Wurts (HarperCollins)	£5.99	0	1
20 RIVER GOD Wilbur Smith (Pan Macmillan)	£5.99	20	12

Any book from this list can be ordered from

Dillons Direct Tel: 0345 125 704 (local rate) The Bookstore To Your Door

Derwent May reviews the critics

5.5 Pleasure ratings are awarded to a maximum of five. Column on the right indicates the length of reviews to date in national broadsheet newspapers

3.5 No Booker for Oscar man: Last weekend almost everybody reviewed Peter Carey's novel *The Unusual Life of Tristan Smith* (Faber, £14.99). He won the Booker Prize for his novel *Oscar and Lucinda*, and it was generally thought he would be on this year's shortlist. He was not — and if you had read the reviews carefully, you might have suspected he would not be.

The new novel is about "a lipless midge with club feet, withered legs and a twisted ribcage", as Peter Kemp put it in *The Sunday Times*. This is Tristan, who wants to be an actor, and who travels to and fro between two imaginary nations, Efic and Voorstand. — "re-jigged versions of Australia and the United States seen as paradigms of the colonised and colonising". Kemp thought that "the novel's views on colonialism are ordinary enough", but "what is extraordinary is the detail, scale and gusto with which they are given fabulous actual-

ity". The book was "a gorgeous carnival of conjuring up", he said.

In *The Independent on Sunday*, Calen Strawson also thought that "the whole thing works. It runs as planned, a powerful jargon, bright with scavenged chrome, fairy lights, and no brakes."

But Victoria Glendinning in *The Daily Telegraph* said that, although Carey once again "conjures up an alternative earth which remains recognisably our own earth", what she remembered afterwards was just "the pathos and courage of the naked Tristan". The novel "may have been conceived as comedy but actually I did not want to laugh, or not much."

Geraldine Brennan said in *The Observer* that the book was "spellbinding and just plausible enough... It's a sharp parody of colonial politics somewhere, but you can no more work out where than you can honeymoon in San Serifo". It was left to David Robson in *The Sunday Telegraph* to express the deepest doubts. The book, he declared, "bears the hallmarks of a writer of whom great things are expected, but who does not have great things to say... How many Booker winners," he mused, "have ever bettered

the book with which they won it? A literary coronation has become a curse."

Col cms: 237

4.5 Sailing out: Nobody ever thought *The Commodore* would win the Booker. But this seventeenth volume of the 81-year-old Patrick O'Brian's Napoleonic sea-saga intoxicated his fans once again (HarperCollins, £14.99). Jessica Mann in *The Sunday Telegraph* thought it contained "some of the most moving passages of the whole great work". Max Hastings in *The Daily Telegraph* said "there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" if signs that the saga is coming to an end are true. Tom Pocock in *The Times*, felt that new readers might find difficulty in "getting aboard" — but after that, it was "pure enjoyment". Col cms: 108

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كذا من الأصل

Julia Neuberger tells how she brought a woman's view to the Booker judging

And the nominees are...



Francis King: a strong sense of melancholy

YESTERDAY CAME SUDDENLY

By Francis King
Constable, £9.95
Respected novelist, critic, British Council veteran, ex-President of PEN International, King has spent a lifetime in international cultural service. His autobiography gives a taste of all his postings to Florence, Salonika, Athens, Alexandria, Finland and Japan) before he settled in England in the 1960s.

Childhood in India was spent under the shadow of the tuberculosis that eventually killed his father; schooldays were in England, to which he was sent like a parcel. Much as he appears to have relished the tasks and contacts of a literary life,

there is a strong sense of melancholy, which perhaps stems from these early experiences.

Pacifist, homosexual, man of letters, King describes himself as an aesthete rather than a moralist. What fun it would have been to sit in on his conversations with Ivy Compton-Burnett. Moralists he may not be, but he verges on the catty in some of his reminiscences of famous writers; no doubt they amply deserve it.

At his most interesting on nations' differing attitudes to sex, alcohol and social etiquette, at his saddest on the miserable death of his long-term companion, David. King paints an honest, humane and often very funny portrait of his times.

THE HERETICS FEAST: A History of Vegetarianism

By Colin Spencer
Fourth Estate, £5.99

Prehistoric man discovered meat-eating as a means of keeping the tribe together, sitting around a roast bison being more conducive to social unity than foraging for small depressing fruits. The Christians encouraged the idea of man's superiority to animals, further sanctifying their use as food. Since then, vegetable diets have been used by leaders of breakaway sects with varying levels of success. Now, of course, all commercially produced food is so drenched in chemicals that it makes no difference what we eat. For the committed meat-eater, this well-written book is fascinating — any extreme dietary habit is akin to an exciting perversion in the eyes of those who do not follow it.



has an exuberance and surreal atmosphere. Edith is caught up in a street riot, parades in a march dressed as a cowgirl, and falls in and out of love with reckless abandon.

LILIAN'S STORY

By Kate Grenville
Picador, £5.99

The heroine of this very good Australian first novel, Lilian, born early this century, is bright, loud and fat. However much her father beats her and her mother exhorts her to be delicate, she forges ahead through school and university, secretly admired as much as she is laughed at. This is too much for her increasingly insane father to bear, and he has her committed to a lunatic asylum. What makes this book special is the wild, bleak poetry of Lilian's inner life, which contrasts harshly with the bourgeois society that effectively destroys her.

THE LOVE SONGS OF NATHAN J SWIRSKY

By Christopher Hope
Picador, £5.99

Set in 1950s South Africa these interlinked stories, written in the shadow of apartheid, explore the effect of a dehumanising political system on a complacent community of English emigrants. Jewish eccentric Nathan Swirsky arrives in Edmuntown, a new town on the fringes of Johannesburg. Badminton, a new town on the fringes of Johannesburg. Badminton, a new town on the fringes of Johannesburg. Badminton, a new town on the fringes of Johannesburg.



NOBODY'S FOOL

By Richard Russo
Vintage, £5.99

North Bath, a once-flourishing spa town in upstate New York, is in decline: the springs have dried up. Yet though the locals are down they are far from out. Focusing on a week in their lives, Russo squeezes considerable humour from the struggles of this troubled community. There is a rich cast of Dickensian grotesques, chief among whom is the indolent lowlifer Sully, whose endearing eccentricities and adventures provide much of the novel's charge and appeal. Like Garrison Keillor, Russo makes you feel that small-town America is the only place to live.

Contributors: Alison Burns, Tania Glyde, Helen Davidson, Jason Cowley



Julia Neuberger with some of the 90 books she read in seven weeks: "We had to read too fast to gain much pleasure"

Male violence, for instance, is high on my agenda of issues to be addressed in life and in art. I was much moved by Margaret Forster's *Mothers Boys* (Chato & Windus), which deals with young, male, mindless, meaningless violence and the relationship that families — particularly mothers — have with it. For me, more than for the other judges, this was an important book, dealing with issues which concern us all. Forster's clear writing has always seemed to me to be exemplary; few writers can match her for subtlety, and for plain speaking when required. But there is no doubt that her writing is issue driven, which attracts me more than some literary professionals.

I am also passionately interested in family dynamics: the stuff of Elizabeth Jane Howard's *Confusion* (Macmillan), for instance, or Maggie Gee's *Lost Children* (Flamingo), where my colleagues were probably less moved. It is conventional nonsense to argue that women are more interested in feelings and men in ideas, and the shortlist does not suggest that at all in the list of authors we came up with; but the domestic novel — by which I do not mean the Agatha Christie novel — is a distinctly British genre, and I suspect that novels which came in later had to try harder to make the same impact.

I am also sure that, with a rule which states

misunderstood by men. Yet it is an important literary genre, celebrated by Nicola Beauman in *A Very Great Profession*, a genre which Virago in its early days did much to re-establish with the publication, as modern classics, of Elizabeth Taylor, E. M. Delafield, E. Arnot Robertson and others.

Of course, each of the judges had personal favourites. We argued with passion about the novels that came anywhere near winning, and even often about those that did not make the "long shortlist" but were, for one reason or another, important to one or two of us, or were interesting but imperfect works. Margaret Atwood's *The Robber Bride* (Bloomsbury) has seemed an

extraordinary omission to many critics, yet, despite her delicious inventiveness, it does not stand up to some of her previous novels, and needs further editing. As one of her greatest fans, I found myself loving the story, but thinking that it could all have been tighter, tougher, and more elegant.

Kate Grenville's *Dork Places* (Picador) also had its fans, as did Louis de Bernieres' magnificent *Coprolin* (Secker & Warburg), Candia McWilliam's *Debatable Land* (Bloomsbury), Elaine Feinstein's *Dreamers* (Macmillan), Dermot Healy's *Goats Song* (Harvill) and Indira Mahindra's *The End Play* (Allison & Busby), an accomplished study of the break-up of traditional upper-class Indian living panthers.

All of us were appalled that the British publishing world did not take up Jill Paton Walsh's startlingly good, prize-winning *Knowledge of Angels* (Green Bay), a tightly written, fierce, somewhat fashionable theological work, which gripped me from the very beginning.

A READING LIST THAT KEEPS ON GETTING LONGER

THE one thing the judges had in common was a passion for the art of fiction, and a great desire to see good novels flourish.

What is less understood is the sheer volume of print that we had to read — 130 novels — which started drifting in in late March, reaching peak delivery time by the end of June. Reading 90 books two a day. Although I have holiday, means two a day. Although I have holiday, means two a day. Although I have holiday, means two a day.

that publishers can enter three novels as well as any novel by any writer previously shortlisted or who has won previously, the list will get longer and longer, and I am not convinced that previous winners should be entered again.

The theory is that we are looking for the best novel published that year. But that is an almost impossible task — in what way must it be best? Best written? Most moving or gripping? Most inventive? Developing the art of the novel? Tastes differ, and help. But excluding previous winners would, as would insisting that publishers must include previously shortlisted authors in their allocation of three.

Joan Brady tells Valerie Grove the tangled story of her life and family

Dance on the edge of chaos

PROLOGUE: An Unconventional Life
By Joan Brady
Andre Deutsch, £17.99



Brady: "genetic fluke"

THIS enthralling oddity of a book has a curious history. It came out in 1982 in America to baffled reviews, mostly by dance critics, mostly by the memoir of a ballet dancer. And it does reflect, in fascinating and painful detail, the graft and grist and bleeding and bandaging that goes into building up a dancer's body: "Ballet is an athletic sport that happens to be performed to music," as Joan Brady says.

But the life story it tells is even more curious: Joan Brady, who in February won the Whitbread Prize for her novel *Theory of War*, decided in childhood that her parents' friend, the writer Dexter Masters, would become her lover. He had already been her mother's lover and was targeted by her mother to be "the husband of her old age"; instead, at 17, Joan moved in on the day Masters' first wife died.

It is hard to explain, today, why she did such a thing. "At the time, you decide what you want and you get it. Later on, when you get to be the age your mother was, you realise it must have been extremely unpleasant for her."

But her mother "would not have been happy whatever I did. It's just one of those very painful situations: she had one

child she did not particularly care for. It's not all that uncommon. Families are so impossible anyway. Even families that seem ordinary on the surface have all this stuff mooling around underneath."

Her Whitbread novel was based on the true story of her grandfather, sold as a white slave at the age of 12. He became a preacher, four of his seven children committed suicide. One was her father, an economics professor blacklisted in the McCarthy era, who took an overdose of Nembutal when she was 17 and never really recovered — "an interesting man, but a basket case". Her aunt, Hope — "a difficult, accusing, hard sort of woman, to whom my father dedicated a book, 'To Hope, who understands the need for iron in one's soul'" — hanged herself. Two other aunts, both nurses, took their own lives.

Brady, now widowed, still lives in Totnes, Devon, where she and Masters fetched up by chance. They were on their way to live in France, but Masters blew cold on the idea as they were getting towards Plymouth. In Totnes they found this charming, ancient house with secluded garden, and stayed. Brady, having "no strong sense of place bound up with my own identity" did not mind as long as they were together. "I really liked this guy I married. I was not interested in anybody else, male, female, anybody. I

thought he was fascinating. I still do. I don't understand him even now — which is part of the charm. You wouldn't want to live with someone you understood completely, or you'd die of boredom."

Here in Totnes, Brady fell in with an interesting crowd that included the late Edith Young, mother of Lord Young of Darnley, who introduced her to Mary Wesley, the late-flowering novelist, who encouraged Brady to write. "For her to take me on was a rare and inspiring act of extraordinary generosity. She made all the difference to my life."

When she gave up the ballet after several ugly scenes with her angry, unforgiving mother, Brady took a philosophy degree at Columbia. "Ballet is really a child's profession. You are trapped in a kind of enforced childhood, somebody else's tool, especially with Bal-

anchine, who preferred one to have no dramatic personality of one's own. Columbia was full of refugees from the ballet."

But philosophy was not satisfying. "I remember one exam question: 'I have a hand; I have a mother; I have an idea. Explain whether these are the same uses of have, or different uses of have.' It's crap. Party game stuff. A lot of those philosophy graduates ended up in computer analysis, which is about that level."

Now she is taking an Open University degree in mathematics, having already taken one in physics, like her son, who went to Cambridge. She finds maths deeply fascinating, and explains to me the way fractals form the icon of chaos theory, the infinite mysteries of the Mandelbrot set.

At 54, Brady is still in training at the gym, striving off "the middle-aged shape". I expected her feet to be gnarled and misshapen — the tales of how she squeezed them into point shoes several sizes too small are agonising — but (pulling off a shoe). "My feet look fine, see? Nothing wrong with that foot. I don't injure readily: a genetic fluke."

A SON OF THE CIRCUS competition



TOKEN 2

All in all, another brick in the Wall

FAITH
By Len Deighton
Harcourt Collins, £14.99

IT had to happen. Having created the equivalent of *The Forsyte Saga* for the Cold War years with his two trilogies — *Game, Set and Match* and *Hook, Line and Sinker*, Len Deighton has begun the complicated task of bringing us up to date.

The latest episode in the involved tale of Bernard Samson is entitled *Faith*. Can *Hope* and *Chorley* be far behind? To be fair, each book is relatively self-contained. And for those who have forgotten, the rest of the relatives are tied together with a set of genealogical tables.

These are important, given that the first big shock, early in the series, was the detection of Bernard's wife, Fiona, who subsequently resurfaced as a top KGB agent in East Berlin. But no sooner had Bernard found out about her in the arms of a beautiful Hungarian secretary than he discovered his wife's defection was a plot and she is really a top-flight British agent ready to come back and take over his department. Throw in the fact that her married sister is sleeping with his married boss and it becomes not so much East Berlin as Brookside-on-the-Spre.

Bizarrely it is this soap-opera element that makes the saga so readable. Deighton's forte is his reduction of the wiles of counterespionage to bitchy office politics and tawdry middle-aged affairs.

But on the world stage, his use of hindsight is a little too liberal. In a scene set back in 1987, Bernard displays a talent that would have left *Nosferatu* rubbing his crystal ball: "If we can get the Hungarians to open their border, the DDR would have to fortify their entire frontier to prevent their people crossing over. That might prove the last straw for the regime." Well spotted.

The fall of the Berlin Wall took the world by surprise, for the unsurprising fact that it happened largely by accident. In any case, Margaret Thatcher's statements at the time made it clear that any agent of British intelligence who contributed to the end of the useful Cold War and the dreaded reunification of Germany would have been handbagged to death in a Downing Street basement.

But as *Faith* closes before the frontiers open, perhaps Deighton is keeping a few surprises for his heroes as a last act of *Chorley*. We can only live in *Hope*.

PETER MILLAR

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HYM TONAL COCK

Plain white crockery, including dinner plate. £2.50, side plates and deep bowls, £1.99 each, from branches of Debenhams

side plates and deep bowls (£1.99) each. If you fancy something more colourful, try Jerry's Home Store's Nantuck-et bargain range of white plates with a bright blue, teal or red band (dinner plate £2.50, side plate £1.85, pasta bowl £2.50). Or, if you're in the money, look at the new Palette plates from Ceramica Blue in west London, which come in eight roughly painted plain

side plates and deep bowls (£1.99) each. If you fancy something more colourful, try Jerry's Home Store's Nannick or bargain range of whiteware plates with a bright blue, teal or red band (dinner plates £2.50, side plate £1.85, pasta bowl £2.50). Or, if you're in the money, look at the new Paletta plates from Ceramica Blue in west London, which come in eight roughly painted plain colours — very Chianti-style. With prices starting at £9, why not buy a few pieces to mix with your plain white? Serve big, casual meals for your friends from Habitat's vast white platelet (£22) and shallow bowl (£10).

Cover ugly furniture with fabric. If you choose something plain such as John Lewis's Stockton lining fabric (£3.95 per metre), you can stencil it or dress it up with cushions. Alternatively, look at Ikea's extra-wide fabrics (100in, prices vary) which in-

A black and white photograph showing a wine glass in the center, flanked by two plates. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows, creating a sophisticated and elegant atmosphere. The glass is partially filled with a dark liquid, likely wine. The plates are set with what appears to be a fork and knife, though the details are somewhat obscured by the lighting and shadows. The overall composition is balanced and visually appealing, typical of high-end food and beverage photography.

- Ikea: 081-233 2300 for branches.
- Lakeland Plastics: 05394 88100 for catalogue or details of branches.
- Nhs: 071-262 3288 for branches.
- Ceramica Blue: 10 Blenheim Terrace, London W11 (071-727 0288).
- Debenhams: 071-408 4444 for branches.
- FTE Designs: 9 Little Chester Street, London SW1 (071-235 7185).
- Habitat: 071-255 2545 for branches.
- House of Fraser: 071-834 1515 for branches.
- Jerry's Home Store: 163 Fulham Road, London SW3 (071-581 0909).
- John Lewis: 071-629 7711 for branches.

A black and white photograph of a still life arrangement. In the center is a wire rack holding several glassware items. To the right is a lantern with a handle and a glass globe. In the foreground, there is a small, round, woven basket. To the left, a small table holds a few more items. The background is a textured, mottled grey.

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a modern, minimalist chair and table set. The chair features a dark, curved backrest with a small, light-colored oval cutout near the top. The seat is light-colored with a dark, abstract pattern. The table is a simple, dark, rectangular top supported by four dark legs. The set is positioned on a light-colored, textured floor against a plain white background.

Left: side plate £1.85, pasta bowl £2 from the Nantucket range. Wine glasses, small £1.65, large £1.99, all from a selection at Jerry's Home Stores

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How to combat that sinking feeling

If the crack in your wall seems to be getting bigger, it's time to call in the professionals — it could be subsidence

Dry rot, wet rot, Second World War bombs, incompetent drunks with cement mixers: this house has suffered them all during the last two centuries. Now a fresh foe has arrived on the scene: the hill. Are we moving down it?

If you buy a house backing on to a part of the landscape known as One Tree Hill, you cannot complain if there is a certain amount of sloping in the environment. It would be like going on holiday to the Alps and then suing the travel agent because some bits were higher than others. Our back garden shoots down at an angle of 45 degrees until it hits the house. There is then a relatively flat bit, containing house, tiny front garden and road, after which the terrain carries on with its sloping.

That has been the deal since around 1794, when the builders, presumably roped together for safety, first hacked into the living clay of this south London cliff. A new development round the corner has been more downwardly mobile and is slithering bodily towards the next postal district, but our row of terraced houses has for two centuries stayed more or less in one place and one place.

Now, though, something is up, or rather down. It was next door's surveyor who spotted it. He had come in to examine our property before the building of a new storey on the other side of the party wall. The idea was that after completion, he could come back to spot any differences, such as scaffolding poles embedded in our bath, for which we would need compensation. By the same token, he could make sure we weren't pulling a fast one and claiming cash from our neighbours for every old stain on the living-room plaster.

Oddly enough, what he said was, "Look at that wallpaper!"

Idly, I thanked him for his remarks on our bedroom decor, told him firmly that he should confine himself to the structural matters.

"I meant, it's all wrinkled in the corner," he said. "It could be subsidence." In other words, one wall might actually be sliding down and taking the wallpaper with it. "Or it could well be settlement," he added. "What's the difference?" I asked, but he had to go back next door, so I turned instead to a chartered building surveyor, David Tuffin of Tuffin, Ferraby and Taylor.

"Subsidence means the sinking of a structure into the ground because the nature of the subsoil has altered," he explained. The drilling of the Channel Tunnel beneath your cellar would have this



Jonathan Sale's hillside house has stood firm for two centuries, but a chance visit by a surveyor set alarm bells ringing about the wrinkled wallpaper in one room. Devices have been set up to monitor the movement

effect. Settlement, by contrast, is a more natural process, as the weight of the building bears down on the earth beneath, in particular, just after the house has been constructed. A dry summer makes the earth shrink, and down you go.

The building will rise in winter, Mr Tuffin continued cheerfully. "All buildings bob up and down — almost daily, certainly seasonally." As long as you don't mind living in a large Yo-Yo, there is no harm done — assuming that each bit of the structure leaps up and down together.

"The big problem," he warned, "is differential settlement." This means that one part shifts at a different rate to the rest: a wall, for example. "It might be that there is a cellar under one part of the house and not under another." There is nothing of a subterranean nature round here that can be blamed for

the movement; clearly in 1794 this was not a cellar's market.

But, unless you are compiling a dictionary, does it matter if the cracks are put down to subsidence or to settlement? Unfortunately it can affect insurance claims for repairs such as underpinning.

"Most policies will cover subsidence or landslip," the Association of British Insurers explained. "Heave," a dramatic upward movement caused by swelling subsoil, is also taken care of. "But settlement would not normally be covered."

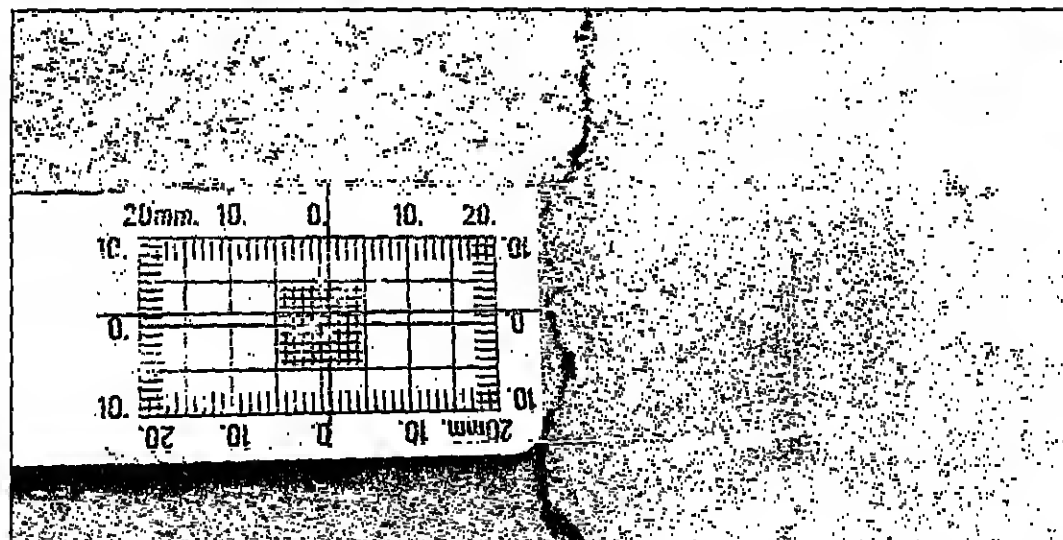
If you get that sinking feeling, Mr Tuffin urges you to hire an expert to argue your case: phone the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (071-222 7000).

Instead, I waylaid next door's surveyor and dragged him round for another squint at the wallpaper. Before deciding which of the two structural evils it was, and what

must be done to repair it, he needs to discover how much movement is taking place. He ruled a line across the crack in the top bedroom: if it later stops being a straight line, we are in big trouble. On a corner of the ground floor, he installed a "Tell-Tale", a device which achieves the same end in a more sophisticated way: two pieces of plastic, like small rulers, are each fixed at the same level on adjoining walls.

So far, the reading across the crack on the top storey has not altered but it seems to me that the one on the ground floor has shifted marginally. This suggests that the wall is sinking at the bottom but staying put at the top. Clearly we have a rubber wall. This is just as well, since I am about to bang my head against it. I shall name our house *Dun-sinkin*.

JONATHAN SALE



The "Tell-Tale" is made of two pieces of plastic which are fixed on adjoining walls, to detect movement

about £147,000

NORFOLK
Tucks Close, Thornham. Linked-detached 18th-century family house in an unspoilt Norfolk coastal village, with half an acre of gardens and a walled orchard. Six bedrooms, two bathrooms, drawing room, dining room, study/playroom, kitchen/breakfast room, cloakroom and laundry room. About £150,000 (Savills, 0603 612211).

ESSEX
Windmill Cottage, Moor End, Great Sampford. Old thatched cottage with secluded garden, in a village close to Saffron Walden. Three bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen/dining room. About £142,500 (Bruce Munro, 0799 522628).

DEVON
Hayes Cottage, Poltimore, near Exeter. Thatched cottage in a third of an acre of gardens, in a village about five miles from Exeter. Three bedrooms, bathroom, four reception rooms, study, kitchen/breakfast room. About £150,000 (Constables, 0392 422122).

HAMPSHIRE
Old Oaks, Pauls Lane, Sway. Detached thatched cottage in an acre of gardens with paddock, on the edge of the New Forest. Two bedrooms, bathroom, sitting/dining room, study, fitted kitchen and utility room. About £153,000 (John D. Wood, 0590 677233).

Buyer's France: DORDOGNE

Prices still falling

Partially restored old stone house, St Aulaye, £71,500

THIS attractive old stone house, standing on the edge of a small hamlet, near St Aulaye in the north west of the Dordogne, is on offer, with garden, at FF590,000 (about £71,500), including agency fees. According to UK agent Barbers (110 Westbourne Park Road, London W2: 071-221 0555) the price has been reduced by more than £10,000 in less than a year.

The property has been largely restored, although some work remains to be done. It has a ground floor "salon" with exposed stone walls, and doors leading on to a balcony; kitchen/dining room with stone fireplace; bedroom; shower-room; cloakroom; first-floor sleeping area; and loft for conversion. It comes with central heating, an attached garage and a covered terrace.

Moving up the scale, you can buy a fully renovated country house with an attached double garage, in an acre of well established gardens, not far from Bergerac in the south of the Dordogne for FF1,450,000 (about £176,800), through UK agent Siler (1 Doneraile Street, London SW6 071-384 1200).

It has five bedrooms, two bathrooms, two reception rooms, kitchen, workshop, wine cellar and a large attic for conversion. Bordenax airport can be reached in about an hour by car; allow at least seven hours to drive from northern French ports.

A French property exhibition is being held this weekend at The Exhibition Centre, Novotel, Hammersmith, London W6. Saturday, 10.30am-7pm; Sunday, 10.30am-5pm. Admission free.

CHERYL TAYLOR

THE TIMES

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TRAVEL

IRELAND: The beautiful Wicklow mountains, and Ulster's attractions in unaccustomed peace

CAROLINE BLUNDEN



Ramblers talk over the day's walk at Ballyknocken House, Glenealy, near Wicklow

Stout walks in the hills

The sign on the Dublin road to the blue-grey mountains of Wicklow read: "Narrow bridge, no large vehicles". Tom, the bus driver, turned to us and said: "Sure we'll chance it... our Lord loves a trier."

The bus lurched down the hill, swung round the corner at the bottom and across the bridge, with two inches to spare on either side. As we neared the village of Glenealy, Tom took both hands off the wheel to wave to friends.

Fifteen dazed travellers staggered off the bus at Ballyknocken House, which was to be our walking base for the next week. None of the group had met before and the awkward silence was broken by the warm welcome of Mary Byrne, who has been providing farmhouse holidays at Ballyknocken House for the past 20 years. Mrs Byrne is what the Irish call "a great woman". She prepares lunches, bakes delicious brown bread and, with infinite patience and kindness, makes each visitor feel special.

At present, Ireland has the advantage of not being overrun with tourists: were the numbers to increase dramatically, the beauty of the countryside could change. The Wicklow mountains form the largest granite mass in the British Isles, extending more than 50 miles along Ireland's east coast south of Dublin. The central spine consists of open moorland with lakes and rounded peaks, the highest of which is Lugnaquilla at 925m (about 3,000ft). There was uproar recently when Radio Eireann announced that one of the few roads across the mountains would be closed while Mel Gibson filmed *Rob Roy*. I half expected the hills to be alive with Irishmen in kilts.

The first day started with cooked breakfast of immense variety, with the poached eggs cooked to perfection. At 10am

we set off in Sadie Dolan's bus with our guide, Diana Large, a 57-year-old with an elfin face who leapt over the rocks like a mountain goat. Having monitored the group as we panted uphill, she set the pace.

No sooner had we gained height and were enjoying the view of Glendalough, with its 6th-century monastic settlement set between two lakes, than it started to rain. Within seconds, all the other members of the group had donned the latest in rainwear for walkers. My sailing shoes were sodden and had no grip; the icy raindrops stabbed at my bare legs. I leant into the wind and, as it took my

third day I was less stiff and by the end of the week was keeping up with the best of them.

The first walking day ended at about 5pm in Laragh, which has at least three pubs and a tearoom. The whole group made for the tearoom, where we listened to stories of St Kevin, abbot of Glendalough in AD 570. He was a lover of animals and was said to have stood with his arms outstretched long enough for the birds to nest in his hands. He made his home in a cave by the lake, where he was hotly pursued by an amorous admirer. At first he chased her away with nettles but she was not deterred, so he pushed her into the lake where she drowned.

Sadly, few birds such as the golden plover, hen harrier, merlin and grouse can survive here now, mainly because of the combination of moorland fires and overgrazing by sheep. The land is mostly owned by the Office of Public Works and Coillte, which is equivalent to the Forestry Commission. The lower slopes of the mountains are planted mainly with pine and spruce. It is a pity that more varied planting, with a view to encouraging wildlife, does not take place.

That evening at Ballyknocken House Mrs Byrne served a five-course dinner. Then it was down to the pub for a Guinness.

The highlight of the week was a walk around Lough Tay at Luggala and down the green road to Lough Dan. A red squirrel darted across our path and disappeared into the branches of an old oak tree: a Sika deer put up a startled cry as we climbed above Lough Dan; blue shadows danced on the green hills.

The tranquillity of these mountains is threatened by a planned Interpretative Centre for visitors overlooking the valley, which will draw more cars to the narrow mountain roads. The Office of Public Works, which is responsible for the scheme, needs only look at the location and proposed relocation of visitor centres at Stonehenge and Glen Coe to see what a disaster the centre could be.

The Wicklow hills were described by one of our group as the best of the Lake District and Scotland combined, but with better breakfast. For me it was paradise. At the end of the week, we all received certificates from Mrs Byrne to prove that we had climbed and walked more than 50 miles. Asked if they would do such a thing again, the overwhelming response by the group was: "Yes, we'll walk across Kerry or Connemara next."

weight, my legs skipped across the ground, my feet scarcely touching it. I now know what it is like to be swept off my feet.

The mist cleared to reveal a group of deer, and ten pairs of binoculars appeared. Most of the group were members of ramblers' clubs, but I was a newcomer to organised walking. Everyone was friendly, but at times I found the chat too much and lagged behind to listen to the silence.

I had done no real exercise for a long time, so it was a shock to the system to walk ten miles a day. However, by the

time I was less stiff and by the end of the week was keeping up with the best of them.

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High in the Wicklow mountains, the ramblers take a well-earned breather. During their week's holiday they climbed and walked more than 50 miles

The land that tourists forgot

If peace has finally returned, to the troubled province, so too will visitors

Chance is a fine thing. Shortly before the IRA announced its "cessation of hostilities", the depths of my drawers yielded a yellowing, dog-eared document which turned out to be a brochure for the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, circa 1966.

Amidst the province's chief attractions it listed the delights of trout fishing in the crystal-clear rivers of Crossmaglen. Since for the past quarter-century the rural surroundings of this unpretentious village have been most widely famed as the "killing fields of South Armagh", it seemed an inspirationally optimistic omen.

If the violence that has scarred Ulster's image — as well as literally blowing the heart out of its towns — is definitively over, a key element in the reconstruction of its economy could well be tourism. Until the end of the 1960s Northern Ireland did well out of tourists: summer visitors from Scotland and the north of England came to resorts such as Bangor and Portrush and ate ice-creams and sticks of rock in time-honoured British seaside tradition.

But the future for tourism could be much wider. Ulster's attractions rival the best the British Isles can offer. For the sailor, not only is there the new marina in Bangor, where the Royal Yacht Club still dominates one jutting headland, but also the vast inland expanse of Lough Neagh, the largest inland sea. Best of all is the network of waterways that make up the Fermanagh Lakeland. Upper and Lower Lough Erne, lying among low green hills and linked by the river Erne, contain more than 1,000 islands, large and small, public and private, a challenge for



The Antrim Coast road winds through picturesque hamlets and down by the pounding sea

yachtsmen, a scenic freeway for cabin cruiser captains and a paradise for ambitious anglers and wildfowl-watchers.

Northern Ireland's most famous tourist attraction is the Giant's Causeway. This spectacular volcanic formation of hexagonal basalt columns thrusting out of the sea along the north Antrim shoreline

complete with the revelling lord and his guests, plunge down the cliff into the churning waters of the Irish Sea.

If that is a chilling tale, then there is always warming comfort to be had back up the road at Bushmills, where the oldest — legal — distillery in the British Isles still turns out some of the finest whiskey and warmly welcomes visitors and tasters. Indeed, the whole of the Antrim coast road, winding through hamlets liberally supplied with inns, with on one side the dark, wooded glens, and on the other the majesty of the waves breaking on the rocks, is one of Ulster's finest experiences.

Needless to say, sea bathing, despite the over-rated Gulf Stream is restricted to the hardy in late summer, though there are opportunities galore for surfers — in wet suits — to "ride the white horses" onto beaches of golden sand. The finest beach is the vast sweep of Magilligan Strand, stretching seven miles in a great crescent that ends by the narrow neck of Lough Foyle, with the hills of Donegal just a giant's stone's throw away.

The rest of the history is upstream. Derry or Londonderry — to sidestep the argument — is one of the finest walled cities in Europe, currently being well restored. Even if its ancient guns still look out over the Bogside, as

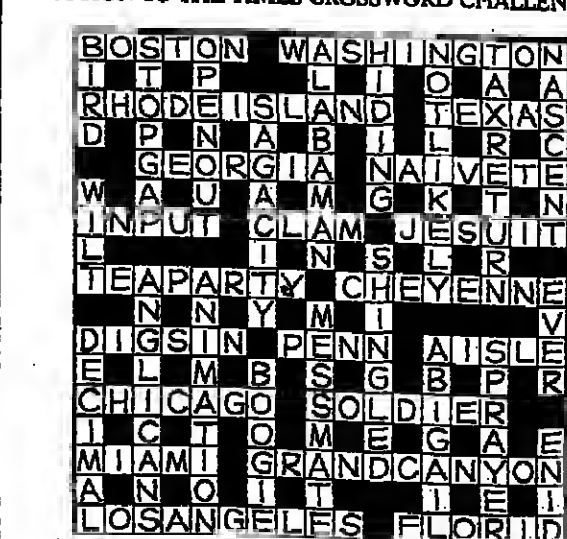
and the gentle rolling drumlins of County Down, for all the bad publicity it is neither unloved nor unlovely. Its city hall is a masterly testimony to Victorian civic pride, self-confident in white stone with its green copper dome standing out against the dark surrounding hills and the aquiline outcrop known locally as Napoleon's Nose.

And then there are the bars... the Morning Star in Pottinger's Entry, or the ornate Crown Liquor Saloon in Great Victoria Street where white-aproned barmen pull black and white pints of stout and serve up plump Strangford oysters. Ulstermen will go on and on about their country... if they could just put their Troubles behind them.

PETER MILLAR

For further information and advice on visiting Northern Ireland (as well as Ireland) contact All Ireland Tourism, based at the British Travel Centre, 12 Lower Regent Street, London W1P 4PQ (071-839 5416/8417). The service can also book accommodation.

SOLUTION TO THE TIMES CROSSWORD CHALLENGE (8)



THE winner of the third Times Crossword Challenge, published between August 20 and 26, was Mrs C. Cooper, of Purbrook, Hampshire. She wins a Club Med holiday for two to Florida. The six winners of £100 traveller's cheques, courtesy of The Travel Bureau, were: Angela Montford, of St Andrews, Fife; Susan Capell, of Southampton; G. Jones, of Solihull, West Midlands; Rosie Hipkin, of Epping, Essex; M. Applin, of Plymouth; and D. Spence, of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

How to get there and what to do

□ The author was a guest of Waymark Holidays, 44 Windsor Road, Slough, Berkshire SL1 2EJ (0753 516477, fax 0753 517016). She stayed at Ballyknocken House, run by Mary Byrne, at Glenealy (010 353 404 44614, fax 44627). The cost of seven nights' accommodation at Ballyknocken House, including breakfast, packed lunch, supper, guided walking for five days and return London/Dublin air fare, is £405.

□ Wicklow Mountains Walking Festival, Friday, October 28 to Monday, October 31. For information, contact Mary Byrne after 9pm or Wicklow County Tourism (010 353 404 66058).

□ Ireland through the Ages exhibition in model form, including the 13th-century castle at Trim. Open daily 10am-6pm. Information from Wicklow Tourist Office (010 353 404 6917).

□ County Wicklow Gardens Festival takes place in May and June each year and includes Wicklow's great houses and gardens — Powerscourt, Mount Usher, Russborough, and Killybeggs. For opening times and further details of the National Garden Exhibition Centre contact the Wicklow Tourist Office.

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CAROLINE BLUNDEN

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 29

SHENG

(a) A Chinese wind instrument consisting of 13 reed pipes formed into a circle, each with a finger hole and mouthpiece through which the musician blows and sucks. From the Chinese sheng.

SPLIFF

(a) A cannabis cigarette, specifically one rolled in a conical form, a smoke of cannabis, West Indian slang, origin unknown.

TOLOACIE

(a) A preparation of a plant of the genus *Datura* used as an anesthetic and hallucinogenic drug from the Mexican Spanish *toluache*, adaptation of the Nahuatl *toluaczin*, from *tolui* to bow the head, reverential.

VARISCAN

(a) Of or pertaining to, or designating a mountain system that formerly extended from southern Ireland and Britain through central France and Germany to southern Poland, or the orogeny that gave rise to it during late Palaeozoic time, after the German *Variscan*.

Aproned barmen serve up plump Strangford oysters

rises into eerie shapes with names such as The Giant's Chair. According to legend, it is the remains of a causeway to Scotland begun, but never finished, by the Irish giant Finn McCool so that he could finish his perpetual quarrel with the giant of Scotland, raw material enough for a symbol of parable in its own right.

A few miles further along stands the ruin of Dunluce Castle, still a favourite for sunset shots in the dormant picture postcard industry, where one stormy night in 1639 saw the entire banqueting hall

Demon that drives the search for snow thrills



A leap into the unknown

some of the best skiers in the advanced groups.

In Val d'Isère, Top Ski, an off-piste ski school, has a predominantly British clientele. Each year Top Ski hires the downhill race course for the week after the World Cup race and runs a downhill racing school.

It is done properly with helmets, racing suits; 225cm downhill skis and attracts a few ex-racers, some skiers from the armed forces teams and club racers. Around 60 per cent of the rest are British recreational skiers.

To see a 50-year-old Welsh sheep farmer in his skin-tight racing suit clocking 50mph is an astonishing sight, but Mad Pitt Syndrome is in evidence.

an astonishing sight, but Mad Brit Syndrome is in evidence in Val d'Isère every December. The more difficult the ski

The more difficult the ski resort, the more likely it is that large numbers of Britons will be found. For example, in Austria's toughest ski resort, St Anton am Arlberg, where there is virtually no skiing suitable for beginners and intermediates, British visitors are second only to the Germans in numbers.

The only problem British skiing has to overcome now is to get more beginners on to the slopes.

The motto this year should be "If you enjoy skiing, bring along a friend".

GRAHAM DUFFILL



The excitement of hurtling downhill on powdery snow as the sun blazes has ensured that many Britons return to the slopes year after year.

Skiing holidays are financially ruinous for most large families, but if you are prepared to organise them yourself, you'll save money and get a better holiday.

Skiing is like malaria: once it's in your blood it tends to stay there. After three winters' remission, we decided to hit the slopes again. But I had forgotten that if skiing does not cripple you physically, it will financially.

After some weeks looking out for cheap ski deals for two adults and four children, ages 14, 12, ten and eight, I was beginning to despair. Even the cheapest bargain becomes catastrophically expensive when multiplied by six.

So we decided to do it ourselves. The Continentals don't use tour operators, so why should we Brits?

The total cost for our six full days' skiing for six people was £1,413. This included travel, accommodation, ski passes, equipment hire, lessons and insurance. An equivalent holiday with one of the tour operators would have been about £500 more.

accommodation, with the owners' telephone numbers. The ski brochures from the big operators helped here, because they featured photographs of many of the resorts we were interested in, and we were able to pinpoint apartments close to the slopes.

Two decisions immediately helped cut costs. We drove, and drove, to the French Pyrenees; the Alps are nearer, but lift passes and lessons are cheaper. Also, the food is cheaper and better, the people are friendly, and the locals ski for fun.

We chose Gourette, a small station about an hour's drive from Pau. It's one of the oldest stations in the Pyrenees, and is not just a purpose-built jumble of concrete and glass. At an altitude of 1,600m (5,250ft), it has good snow and this season has invested in snow cannons to ensure permanent coverage of the lower slopes.

We saw no other Brits during our week in Gourette, probably because no UK operator goes there. It was wonderful not being made to feel as though we were in an up-the-

Stand out from the crowd by making your own skiing arrangements for the family

Wednesday afternoon, busloads of school children from Pau and the surrounding towns came up to the village for their weekly lessons. For a few hours the slopes took on the appearance of a multi-coloured anthill. The rest of the time, including weekends, there were no lift queues.

The flat we rented cost £120 for seven days, and slept six. It was not large, but had everything we needed, including hot water, excellent heating, and a television set. It was in a

wine and the sweet, aromatic Basque liqueur, *izarra*. A menu we sampled more than once started with *garbure* (a substantial soup), continued with plates of *charcuterie*, then offered chicken Basquaise or roast pork or steak, and finished up with puddings for the children and cheese for the adults. On one occasion, the owner's son had been lucky hunting, and we were able to try wild boar.

Hiring ski kit for six is expensive, wherever you go, and six sets of skis, boots and poles seemed dear at £270. However, the shop was happy to exchange, twice, waterfilled boots after our youngest son had managed to fill them with snow. They also sorted out

without quibbling, my husband's damaged skis after a high-speed collision.

Ski lessons and passes are cheaper than anything comparable in the Alps. The four children and I had three one-hour lessons over six mornings, costing £230. Ski passes, covering 27 lifts and 30km (19 miles) of piste, totalled £344.

I am trying to think what the downside of the holiday might have been, but I can't come up with anything. If you are prepared to make a few phone calls, and drive, then there is no cheaper way to take a large family skiing. Snow permitting, we'll be back on the slopes in March.

JANE HUMPHREYS

A WEEK's self-catering in the Pyrenees for two adults and four children costs*:

Ski lessons	£260
Ski passes	£378
Ski hire	£297
Personal insurance	£160
Apartment	£132
Ferry Portsmouth/ Le Havre	£140
Car breakdown insurance	£25
Motorway tolls	£31
Petrol	£121
Total	£1 544

* Prices are for the coming season; some are not yet available and for these an estimate of 10 per cent has been added to last year's prices. Conversion from Ffr in Sterling has been made at the exchange rate of Sfrfr to £1. Extras (food, drinks, souvenirs, hire or purchase of snow chains etc) are not included.

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SKIING SPECIAL: Stunning slopes and easy access make France a favourite destination for the British...

A run for your money

The French love statistics almost as much as sticky bread. Official figures claim more than 100 resorts with nearly 4,000 ski lifts and 1,200 square kilometres (about 346 square miles) of piste — more, the devotees say, than any other nation.

Calic logic has evolved a quotient of "quality versus length of piste versus price of ski pass", in which the French walk away with the prize.

The British go to France because the country is attractive and the resorts easy to get to. Transfers to the slopes from airports, Geneva for example,

by coach, van, taxi or train are, with some exceptions, efficient. Many resorts are well connected with long-range motorways.

The down side of French skiing is that hotel and apartment accommodation can be pricey. When the French say "sleeps four", divide by two. That's why the British invented the chalet party, where standards have been rising every season, thanks to demand and competition.

In the pick of ten ski resorts in eastern France below, I have covered those most popular with British skiers, deservedly or not, and those

which invite further attention. An analysis of six-day lift pass prices indicates an overall increase on last year of 6.5 per cent (curiously, this is exactly the percentage of Switzerland's new VAT rate, which will apply on all ski passes from January 1, 1995).

CHAMONIX

The Himalayas are higher, the Rockies more rugged, but no other ski area can offer the range and challenge of Chamonix's lift-served skiing. The area's Mont Blanc lift pass covers Argentière, which has some of the most difficult

skiing in the world, and five other sectors in the valley.

Only an hour from Geneva airport by motorway, Chamonix is not so much a ski resort as the world capital of mountain cred. Aside from Mont Blanc and the 20km (12½-mile) glacier run down the Vallée Blanche, the town's attractions include psychedelic Swedes in the Chouka Bar and the food at Café National.

Getting around the crowded valley roads from one far-flung lift centre to another is unpleasant without a car. In winter, the narrow, low-lying valley is cold. A mountain guide is a must for off-piste itineraries.

LES ARCS

A classic French 1960s purpose-built ski domain. The terrain is wonderfully extensive and efficiently serviced by telecabines, chairs and cable cars. Would-be daredevils can test themselves on a World Cup speed skiing piste. But there's no getting away from the oppressive Kafkaesque architecture.

Addicts of street cafés have the option of staying in utterly untouristic Bourg-St-Maurice and commuting by free funicular (ten minutes) to the slopes. There are three Arc villages, and the top village, at 2000m, is ideal for skiing into May. But Arc 1600 at least has trees. And Arc 1800, with most accommodation, is best poised to cater for the kind of far-ranging intermediate skiers with families who most appreciate Les Arcs' moderate prices and endless pistes.

COURCHEVEL

The French consider Courchevel the most chic resort, despite the telling statistic that Britons make up 26 per cent of the population. Family skiers should take comfort in the knowledge that insurers rate Courchevel as the safest resort in France.

As part of the Trois Vallées ski-pass region, which includes Méribel, Les Menuires and Val Thorens, Courchevel is the epitome of fast-cruising motorway skiing. No other place in Europe has better groomed pistes, thanks to a fleet of 21 piste bashers working through the night and 545 snow cannons.

Alpine charm and stirring views are not among Courchevel's attractions. For fashion and furs it lags far behind Cortina in Italy, Lech in Austria or Gstaad in Switzerland. Off-piste and radical skiing can't compare with Chamonix or Val d'Isère. All of which is why Courchevel is so beloved by its loyal clientele.

New to the resort is a high-speed quad chairlift and a chairlift at Courchevel 1650, and a detachable chairlift and new surface lift plus new telecabines at Courchevel 1850.

MERIBEL

The best positioned resort for foraying out into the Trois Vallées, and a good refuge for those suffering from chich-shock in Courchevel. Easy and affordable skiing, and a low-profile architecture, which is a relief from French purpose-built tower blocks.

French skiers come to Méribel, but listening to the British regional accents in lift queues (mercifully short) you wouldn't know it. Méribel is not easy to get around and there is little to go out for. Traffic is noxious. Chalet parties furnish their own entertainment. The skiing, if uninspiring, seems to satisfy the red-piste-ravers.

LA GRAVE

The least said the better about La Grave, as it is a "keep-the-secret" cult resort among die-hard off-piste skiers. Only two tiny pistes are groomed. One cable car delivers skiers, who should have a guide, to mostly north-facing, glaciated terrain, which is perhaps the least crowded and most unspoiled in Europe.

La Grave can be reached via lifts from Les Deux Alpes. The La Grave cable car opens for Christmas, but spring skiing is the best. This old-fashioned hamlet has only five hotels, and prices are less than half those in some of the more commercial resorts in France.

VAL D'ISERE

Linked with Tignes on the Espace Killy ski pass, Val is routinely rated as Europe's leading ski resort by discerning skiers. First-time visitors will find the long, stretched-

out main street lacking in any charm. But now that vehicles have been severely restricted, crossing the street is less risky than negotiating Val's renowned bump fields.

Most accommodation is in chalets, but the town offers everything. Val is an action town. Ice-diving and an ice-driving track keep non skiers busy. The mountain guide service Top Ski conducts off-piste clinics, from how to ski deep snow to how to climb out of a crevasse. Survivors of Val's hard-core skiing — not recommended for families — bang heads at night in Dick's Tea-Bar. One out of every four visitors to Val is British.

New to the resort is a four-set chairlift at Belvedere and Europe's first "flat lift", which runs along the ground, so that skiers can grab hold of a baton and be pulled along over the flat Solaise terrain.

AVORIAZ

This is the most popular of eight French and four Swiss resorts which make up the 650km (400-mile) Portes du Soleil ski circus. It is ideal terrain for the adventurous early intermediate. The cross-border skiing on 224 lifts has less manicured pisting and less efficient lift liaison than in the Trois Vallées. A mecca for snowboarders.

Avoriaz has invested heavily in new lifts, including the first six-person high-speed detachable chair in Europe. But bottlenecks persist. As most skiing is around 2000m, the Portes require an ample snow year for adequate skiing.

The resort itself is highly animated. Wood covering over the tower-block building is an attempt at charm. The Swiss "Wall of Death" is typical of challenges in the Portes.

New to the resort is a piste patrollers' school every morning for children, at which the youngsters are introduced to mountain safety and avalanche dogs.

LA PLAGNE

Actually, it should be "les" Plagnes. The area is a constellation of 11 resorts, the centre

of which, Aime la Plagne, only a mother could love. Most Britons stay in Belle Plagne, which is more "sympa". Overall, the resort has 41,000 beds; not intimate, but one of the best bargains in terms of extensive, easily accessible skiing, with something for everybody in the family.

It has good off piste and glacier runs, though these can be crowded, and the lifts often close in bad weather.

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... so here's our guide to which tour companies go where, and what's on offer; plus the best bargains around

Choose a smooth operator

The question on every skier's lips is: "Will it be a good winter?" Despite studies on global warming, volcanic eruptions and the hibernating patterns of mammoths, nobody really knows. It has been an exceptionally good summer in the Alps and in North America. And judging by the dearth of bumper seasons over the past decade, we are surely overdue for what the French call *un bon paquet*.

It is hard for non-skiers to understand the addictive nature of the sport. Skiing isn't a pastime. It's a passion. Yes, it is expensive — and, like everything else, more so every year. And it can be cold, wet and as damaging to the corpus as to the ego.

But when the British Isles are dappled with mist, and the pavements are dark and greasy in the halting afternoon light, the unobscured sun blasting out of cloudless purple skies anywhere in the Alps is the perfect midwinter tonic.

If only we could be sure that the snow would be as deep as the pile of tour operator brochures that pound through the letter box before the summer is even finished. Wading through these tomes, some more than 200 pages, is enough to put most of us off the idea of ski holidays altogether.

So, how to find the right place? One solution is to contact one of the independent ski advisory services. Ski Solutions (071-602 9900) and Alpine Answers (081-871 5100), for example, will find a chalet or hotel for you anywhere in the Alps or America, for free.

Susi Johnston, a partner of Alpine



The slopes of Les Arcs

□ **Ski Weekend** (0367 241636; fax 0367 253488). 1,400 skiers in Chamonix, Morzine, La Clusaz and La Grave. Weekends-only specialists for the past seven years, mostly hotels. The best UK operation in the off-piste hamlet of La Grave, which Ski Weekend recommends only for experienced deep-snow skiers. From £399 for a two-day weekend.

□ **Meriski** (0451 844788; fax 0451 846799). 1,250 skiers spread around 12 of the best chalets in Méribel. Eleven years in operation, with a variety of ski guiding and teaching programmes. Managing director lives at the resort. From £384-£769.

□ **Le Ski** (0484 548996; fax 0484 451909). 2,000 skiers, all in chalets, mostly in Courchevel. With 11 years experience in Courchevel and more chalets there than any other operator, Le Ski has expanded into Val d'Isère. Friendly and personal touch, with full-time ski guiding and, most important, off-piste insurance cover. From £375-£555.

□ **The Ski Company**, through Abercrombie & Kent (071-730 9600; fax 071-730 9376). 1,000 skiers in Chamonix, Portes du Soleil, Méribel and, the most popular resort, Val d'Isère. For the past five years, a quantum leap in the chalet party concept. Unparalleled quality, service, and prices. From £699-£1,399.

□ **Ski Esprit** (0252 616789; fax 0252 811 243). 5,000 parents and children in eight French resorts, the most popular of which is Morzine in the Portes du Soleil. Over the past 12 years, Ski Esprit has turned slopeside caring for children into an art form. The only firm brave enough to print unfavourable comments from guests in its brochure. Highest staff-to-client ratio in the Alps. From £318-£776.

□ **Bladon Lines** (061-785 3131; fax 061-789 8358). 15,000 skiers in 14 resorts, of which Val d'Isère is the most popular. From chalets only 15 years ago, Bladon Lines has expanded into hotels and self-catered flats. Extreme versatility in choice of UK airports, self-drive and in resort options such as a free nursery service when booking entire chalets. Chalets £345-£715; hotels £392-£898.

□ **YSE** (061-971 5117; fax 061-971 5229). 3,500 skiers, all in Val d'Isère and almost all in YSE's 18 chalets, though some self-catered flats are available. Owner in residence at resort. From £315-£785.

□ **Club Med** (071-581 1161; fax 071-581 4769). 3,200 British skiers in 10 French resorts. Animation, free ski tuition, accommodation in large buildings. Promotional offers include a free flight to Geneva for the third person in a group of three during January and first week of February, and "free stays" for children under five in Les Arcs, Avoriaz and Les Menuires during the same period. From £659-£1,110.

DOUG SAGER



Chamonix in the French Alps has always been popular with the British for its good ski runs and dramatic scenery. But check the facilities offered by the tour operator



In the Alps at Chamonix

Answers, explains: "We can save clients hours of phone time and a lot of anxiety, because we have visited the resorts and know all the operators, warts and all. We get our commission from the tour operator."

For French chalet holidays, Ms Johnston gives YSE the edge on other companies, mainly because they focus on one resort, Val d'Isère, where a founder of the company is always in residence. She finds Ski Weekend expensive for short stays, but the best at maximising skiers' time on the slopes, with efficient transfers and quick fixes on ski passes and ski hire.

As Ms Johnston notes, the French market has become the most specialised of all, with a number of operators sticking to just one resort. She points to Ski Esprit as a company which has evolved into the ultimate infant specialist, from cradle to crèche. Club Med's approach to holidays is uniquely French. Even Bladon Lines, with its classic chalet party concept, is considered a ski specialist when compared with industry majors such as Thomson and Nelson.

□ **Collinage** (0276 24262; fax 0276 27282). 1,100 skiers in Chamonix and Argentière. Owned and operated for 14 years by the wife of a Chamonix mountain guide. Year round, the pick of the best farmhouses, chalets and villas in the Mont Blanc region. First Tracks programme includes daily mountain guide and van with each chalet. From £350-£750.



"Skiing isn't a pastime; it's a passion"

□ **Swiss Federal Railways** allows children under 16 to travel free if accompanied by an adult. In addition, on flights to Basel, Zurich or Geneva, your luggage can be sent direct to a train station near your ski resort, where you can also check-in for the return flight. Fly-rail luggage labels (£9 per item one way) and train details are available from the Swiss National Tourist Office 071-734 1921.

□ **Ski trains** leave Calais on Friday evenings, arriving in time for skiing the next day in French resorts. British Rail International, 071-834 2345.

□ **One free flight** per couple is offered on Club Med (071-581 1161) skiing trips to ten villages accessible from Geneva, for travel in January or the first week in February. From £441 for a week in Zinal.

□ **Ski Esprit** (0252 616789) offers ski school instruction for children at Morzine, La Plagne and Courchevel in France, and an afternoon

SKI TRAVEL TIPS

Snow club. From £318 for a week in a catered chalet in Morzine (half-board) including flights from Gatwick.

□ **American Connections** (0494 473273) features ski resorts in the US and Canada with savings of up to 25 per cent on lift passes, and day-care centres for children.

□ **Survival techniques**, including making an igloo, are taught by Waymark Holidays

(0753 516477) in Norway during January and February. One week, full-board, costs £540.

□ **Swiss Travel Service** (0992 456143) has direct flights to Bern from Stansted or Gatwick as well as free ski hire (for over 12s) if you fly with British Airways.

□ **Nordic skiing** at Ramseu in Austria's eastern Alps is offered by Headwater (0606 48699). Full-board, from £259.

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HOLIDAYS

GAMES

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

GARRY Kasparov's sensational loss to a computer program in London two weeks ago made headlines around the world. After the machine's win I spoke exclusively for *The Times* to Richard Lang and Ossie Weiner, the two masterminds behind the computer program *Chess Genius*, which defeated the World Chess Champion.

Richard Lang is an unrecognised British genius, aged 38, and married with two girls and one boy, who lives in Poole, Dorset. Lang's modest, unassuming and even retiring manner belies the fact that he is one of the sharpest brains working at the forefront of artificial intelligence.

His program, *Chess Genius*, with its ability to calculate 3.6 million different chess positions every minute rocked the chess world by eliminating Garry Kasparov from the \$160,000 Intel Grand Prix in London.

He says: "Before we beat Kasparov I thought it would be ten to 12 years before computers could compete on level terms with the human champions. However, after beating Kasparov I would now say that this time will reduce dramatically. One day machines will win all the time and take the world title. It's inevitable."

Chess Genius is sold in disk form for less than £100 and runs on any IBM-compatible machine and is especially formidable on the Pentium processor. It was this combination that Kasparov faced in his fateful game. *Chess Genius* has won the world championship for microcomputers on nine occasions, and is the reigning champion, having won at Munich in 1993.

Lang's profession is computer programming for commercial chess products, but as a student his subject was physics at London's Imperial College. He regards himself as near the lower echelons of international recognition in terms of his own chessplaying strength.

"My British Chess Federation rating would be about 180, which translates to approximately 2070 on the international scale," Mr

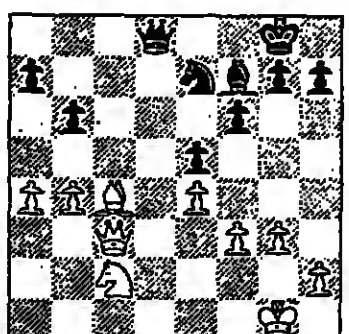
Lang says. "Nevertheless, although I do not play in tournaments my actual understanding of chess is much greater in terms of strategy and general rules."

Herein, perhaps, lies the secret of Mr Lang's spectacular and historic triumph against Kasparov. He has actually tried to transfer his own intelligence into his machine, and when discussing his invention he embraces remarkably anthropomorphic terminology.

He says: "Chess Genius does not adopt a brute force method analysing all moves possible to immense depth. Instead my program uses its intelligence to throw out those lines which it perceives as not promising and searches more deeply into the lines it considers interesting. It has a lot of chess knowledge. It knows a great deal about the game."

Here is the dramatic climax to Kasparov's loss against the machine.

White: Kasparov
Black: *Chess Genius*
Intel Grand Prix
London, August 1994



33 Nc3 Qc4 34 Bc7+ Kc7
35 Qb3+ Kb8 36 Kc2 Qc2+
37 Kh3 Qc2 38 Ng2 h5
39 Qc3 Qc4 40 Qd2 Qe4+
41 g3 Ng4+ 42 Ng4 Qc4
43 Qc1 Qc3 44 Nc3 Qc3
45 Kd3 Qe4 46 Qc2 Qd4+
47 Kc2 Qd4 48 Qc4 Qd4
49 Nc4 Nc5 50 b5 Nc5
51 Nc5 Qc3 52 Kc2 Ng4+
and with two extra pawns, Black soon won.

WINNING MOVE

This position is from the game Farago - Szilagyi, Hungary 1974. The black bishops have caught the White king in a dangerous crossfire. How did Black now capitalise?

Send your answers on a postcard to: *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine book. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Solution to last week's competition: 1... Qxd4

PUNCH

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon on the right. The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Caption suggestions, on a postcard please, should be addressed to: Punch, c/o The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The editor's decision is final; closing date is Wednesday, September 14.



"The chopper brings our vegetables from Harrods"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (printed above) was submitted by Professor A.N. Black, of Little Pensbury, Compton, Winchester, Hants.

WORD-WATCHING

by Philip Howard

SHENG

- a. A Tibetan coin
- b. A cowshed
- c. A Chinese pipe

SPLIFF

- a. To cheat
- b. A cannabis cigarette
- c. To somersault while windsurfing

TOLOACHE

- a. Pain in the bottom
- b. A crenellated gable
- c. Mexican booze

VARISCAN

- a. With varicose veins
- b. A papal courier
- c. Old mountains

Answers on page 22

COMPUTER GAMES

WE OPEN this week with a *Sim City 2000* cheat worth \$242 million for your city funds. Start a new game and in the map editor create a coastal city. Set water and hills at 0 per cent and trees at 100 per cent, then save and quit to DOS. With a hex editor (PC Tools, XTree Gold, etc) tweak the following lines in the saved game file: line 00027, from 01 to 0F; line 00029, from 4E to FF; line 0002A, from 20 to FF. Reboot and you should now have a handy \$242 million to your credit — enough to build Milton Keynes.

Maxis has now taken the wraps off its next *Sim* sequel, *Sim Tower*, not so much a God game as a Super Janitor affair. The idea of this game, a sort of vertical *Sim City*, is to design skyscrapers tall enough to tickle the ozone layer and comfortable enough to attract potentially self-contained communities. As the gameplay builds, the tower becomes a kind of living doll's house with hundreds, then thousands, of tenants to keep track of and services to be maintained. The elevators need regular servicing to prevent accidents and fires, the balance between residential and office accommodation needs constant fine-tuning and, a new

Sim twist, you must consider your residents' stress levels. If the flat isn't conducive to them chilling out then they'll move out.

Sim Tower is expected to be in the shops in time for Christmas, by which time we'll know if Maxis have another success on their hands. It could prove the first title to challenge the original *Sim City*/*Sim City 2000* mould for universal popularity. But the *Sim Tower* preoccupation with fiddly detail could also be its downfall, just like *Sim Life* and *Sim Farm* before it. Gameplay in both of those worthy titles was held back by fastidious detail requiring the endless repetition of time-consuming and ultimately dull tasks.

CYBERSPACE Nine brings the freedom of the freeway into your front room, with three prizes of luxury: new *Top Gun* club awaiting armchair golfers, each complete with a copy of Electronic Arts' *PGA European Tour* for the Sega Mega Drive to start you off on a global golfing tour.

The interactive sawn-off club is just 28 inches long but designed to "have the swing feel of a fully-extended club". It has a base

transmitter allowing real-time swings to prompt computer progress around animated golf courses. The club is suitable for both right and left-handed players and comes with an adaptor module specifically for the *PGA Tour Golf*, *PGA Tour Golf II* and *European Tour* titles. (Additional modules are also available for other Sega Genesis golf games.)

PGA European Tour includes 60 pros (Severiano Ballesteros, Ian Woosnam et al) to play against, five European courses and five real European tournaments, with wet and dry weather conditions to boot.

To enter *Cyberspace Nine* you are asked to review any sporting title. Entries must be legible and to a length of between 150 and 350 words. Please give the full name of the title you are reviewing and your name, address and telephone number. Clearly mark all entries *Cyberspace Nine*. Computer Games, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. You may also fax entries to us at 071-729 6791. The closing date for the competition is midnight on Monday, September 26, and the judges will not enter into additional correspondence.

BRIDGE

by Albert Dormer

JEAN Besse made a dignified exit in Geneva last weekend, aged 80, and with his bridge skills not perceptibly diminished. He was the mental hard man of European bridge for much of the post-Second World War period.

The air of an absent-minded professor — often with two, sometimes three, cigarettes going at a time — cloaked an intellectual killer who took a disinterested satisfaction in proving his superior brain power. His very detachment could get deeply under an opponent's skin.

Besse and controversy were not strangers to each other. Once, playing against Britain in the European Championships, he was at the centre of a fierce dispute over bridge ethics that caused ructions for years afterwards. But he observed the rules as he saw them: the famous player — not a Swiss — who tried to persuade Besse to cheat when partnering him in an early Bermuda Bowl was a poor judge of character.

Besse compiled a distinguished record at Zurich Polytechnic and later helped to pioneer the European computer industry, but nothing could compete with the fascinations of bridge. He became the mentor and mainstay of the Swiss international team that built a giant-killing reputation playing Swiss Acol, one of his many contributions to theory.

An algorithmic orderliness of thought came naturally to Besse. He would make a series of fairly obvious deductions that could lead to a far from obvious conclusion. Here you are West.

On the opening lead your partner plays the queen and declares the 6. What now?

Besse's reasoning was inexorable. First, what is declarer's hand? From the bidding you presume at least five hearts and four diamonds. How many spades? Probably three, for if East held four or more, he might have bid 4 over the redouble, lest you as West should bypass the cheapest spot. South has followed to a club, so you place him with a 3-5-4-1 pattern; and, of course, virtually all the outstanding high cards.

It may now seem that you are in control, since South has only nine winners and you can avoid any

endplay aimed at letting him make the ♠K. However, you should ask yourself how he will continue if you lead a club at the second trick. A competent declarer will see that if trumps are 3-2 he can get home by ruffing clubs three times and drawing the defenders' trumps with dummy's trumps — a dummy reversal. This allows him to make six trump tricks and four diamond tricks. South can even test trumps en route, pursuing the dummy reversal only if they are 3-2.

As West you should conclude that only a lack of entries can possibly debar this successful line of play. Therefore, at the second trick you should not lead a club as this will save an entry.

Instead, exit with a trump. (As the cards are, a diamond will do just as well.) Now dummy is short of an entry and the contract cannot be made.

Perhaps because he found difficult problems easy, Besse took his greatest satisfaction from "easy" hands where he could demonstrate that there was more to think about than most players realised. He showed me this deal. Again you are West.

♠KQJ
♥AJ10932
♦KQ3
♣2

432 ♠765
Q65
109
107653

W N E S
4
4
4
4

♠A109
♥K87
♦A82
♣AKQJ

SOUTH NORTH
2NT 7NT
Opening lead: ♠10

The first two tricks are won by dummy's ♠K-Q, then a diamond is led to the ace in declarer's hand. East following in ascending order. What do you discard?

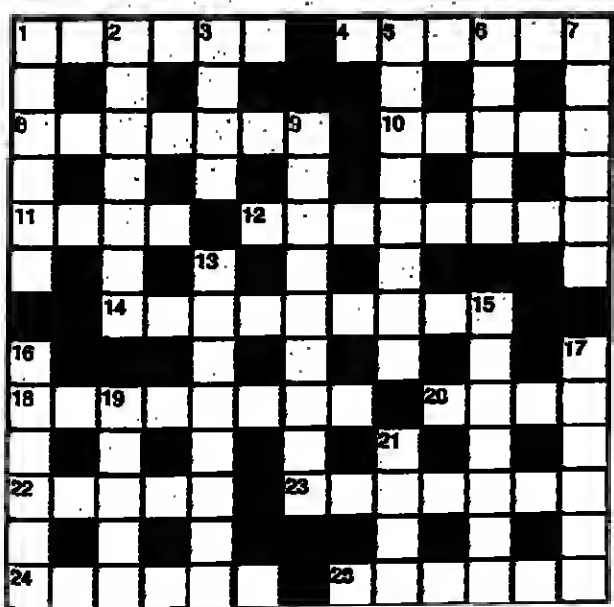
Most defenders will throw a spade, lest declarer should have five clubs. However, if a spade is discarded South will assuredly make the contract. He will find out in the ordinary course of play that West has three hearts and he will succeed in bringing in this suit, giving him more than enough tricks.

West's correct discard on the third diamond is a club. It is clear that, having cashed three diamond tricks, South will play off the black suits. If West has discarded a spade on the diamonds, declarer will learn when West shows out on the third spade that he had three spades to start with.

When declarer plays clubs, he will find that East had three and West five. He already knows that West had two diamonds, so will place him with precisely three hearts and will easily wrap up the heart suit.

To have any hope of beating the contract West has to keep his spades, leaving South with a guess.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 263

ACROSS

- 1 Proper maintenance (6)
- 4 Official seal; prestige (6)
- 8 Analysis; decayed (3-4)
- 10 Noble offspring (5)
- 11 Route, walkway (4)
- 12 Chiseller (8)
- 14 Seizure of political power (4,5)
- 18 Zoom down and attack (4-4)
- 20 Faithful (4)
- 22 Pacific kingdom; two-wheeler (5)
- 23 Rustled; mobbish (5,2)
- 24 Cure (6)
- 25 Actor, musician (6)

DOWN

- 1 Not yet ready to eat (6)
- 2 Of motion (7)
- 3 Small island in river (4)
- 5 Unqualified (8)
- 6 Lift (5)
- 7 Treeless zone of Russia, N America (6)
- 9 Pharisee, supporter of Jesus (9)
- 13 Storage place with door (8)
- 15 Warder; (project) with single contractor wholly responsible (7)
- 16 Newspaper chief (6)
- 17 Assistant (6)
- 19 Poison (5)
- 21 Seabird; deceive (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 262

ACROSS: 3 Lip 8 Abate 9 Atlanta 10 Twinkle 11 Plumb 12 Balsam 14 Battle 15 Endear 17 Struck 20 Haunt 21 Unhappy 24 Ill will 25 Moral 26 Tip

DOWN: 1 Taut 2 Facial 3 Leak 4 Panel 5 Elephant 6 Unjust 7 Daybreak 12 Benham 13 Assassin 16 Dourly 18 Umpire 19 Gullit 22 Hump 23 Yule

CROSSWORD BOOKS (Reduced postage until Dec 31): *The Times Concise Crosswords* (Books 1 & 2 £5.49 each), *Books 3 & 4 £5.49 each*, *Books 5 & 6 £5.49 each*, *Books 7 & 8 £5.49 each*, *Books 9 & 10 £5.49 each*, *Books 11 & 12 £5.49 each*, *Books 13 & 14 £5.49 each*, *Books 15 & 16 £5.49 each*, *Books 17 & 18 £5.49 each*, *Books 19 & 20 £5.49 each*, *Books 21 & 22 £5.49 each*, *Books 23 & 24 £5.49 each*, *Books 25 & 26 £5.49 each*, *Books 27 & 28 £5.49 each*, *Books 29 & 30 £5.49 each*, *Books 31 & 32 £5.49 each*, *Books 33 & 34 £5.49 each*, *Books 35 & 36 £5.49 each*, *Books 37 & 38 £5.49 each*, *Books 39 & 40 £5.49 each*, *Books 41 & 42 £5.49 each*, *Books 43 & 44 £5.49 each*, *Books 45 & 46 £5.49 each*, *Books 47 & 48 £5.49 each*, *Books 49 & 50 £5.49 each*, *Books 51 & 52 £5.49 each*, *Books 53 & 54 £5.49 each*, *Books 55 & 56 £5.49 each*, *Books 57 & 58 £5.49 each*, *Books 59 & 60 £5.49 each*, *Books 61 & 62 £5.49 each*, *Books 63 & 64 £5.49 each*, *Books 65 & 66 £5.49 each*, *Books 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